On Friday, March 17, a room full of excited graduating medical students gathered for the greatly anticipated Match Day 2017 ceremony.

The residencies chosen by our 2017 graduates include:

- Internal Medicine (34)
- Pediatrics (16)
- General Surgery (13)
- Emergency Medicine (10)
- Family Medicine (8)
- Neurology (5)
- Otolaryngology (5)
- Radiology (5)

131 medical students participated in a Residency Match.

44 students will spend all or part of their residencies in the state of Georgia.

40 students will continue at Emory for their entire residency training.
Who was your most memorable mentor at Emory?
Jonas “Jack” Shulman, MD

What was the most useful piece of advice you received while at Emory?
Learn to know the patient by who they are, not by their disease. That is, know Mrs. Jones as the retired seamstress and mother of four, not as the diabetic with a foot ulcer.

Describe a challenge you met while at Emory and how you approached it.
Presenting to Dr. Kenneth Walker from memory in morning report. I spent a lot of time memorizing… and some time praying!

How did your view of medicine change during your time at Emory?
I realized by the end of medical school that medicine is about the entirety of the patient, not just about the specific disease.

In what ways are medical students of today different from you and your peers? In what ways are they alike?
I think today’s medical students are smarter and more well-rounded (at least more so than I was). They remain idealistic and eager.

What three words best describe an Emory alumnus/alumna?
Engaged, thorough, curious.

Class of 1972 Scholarship
In anticipation of their 45th reunion in October, members of the Class of 1972M are moving towards an endowed scholarship as part of their legacy at Emory School of Medicine. This photo is from their 40th reunion.
FOR THE MANY EMORY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE STUDENTS concerned about the financial tolls of medical school, Emory alumnus Alok Deshpande 99B understands their stress. “When a medical student faces more than $150,000 in student loan debt, they’re stressed,” says Deshpande. “It affects the choices they make, what specialty to study.”

Deshpande is CEO and co-founder of SmartPath Financial Wellness, which, with encouragement from Bill Eley 79C 83M 86MR 89FM 90PH, Executive Associate Dean of Medical Education and Student Affairs, Graduate Medical Education, and Continuing Medical Education at Emory School of Medicine, has partnered with the School of Medicine to offer a series of seminars, tools, and coaching to help students better understand their financial reality beyond medical school and build the skills to help them succeed in managing their debt.

The focus of each seminar is to put debt in context of the student’s future earnings, to give students critical thinking skills to evaluate their situation and make prudent financial decisions, and to teach behaviors that lead to long-term financial success.

Deshpande has a few simple words of advice: “If you spend less than you make every month and keep your fixed costs low, you’ll be fine.” Likewise, while SmartPath’s M4 Capstone program walks students through life in the city of their residency—from first paycheck to debt payoff strategies—the key to the program’s success, according to Deshpande, is that they remove the jargon, keep it simple, and try to have fun with learning personal finance.

Feedback from the Capstone program suggests that students enjoy the eye-opening seminar. “This session on finance for residents was easily the most informative, practical, and interesting session I have had in medical school,” wrote one student. Deshpande, according to another student, “did an amazing job breaking down difficult finance topics and distilling financial planning advice to the most essential points for residents.”

With generous support from alumni, many students receive scholarship awards to defray costs of medical school but, as Deshpande points out, “medical school students have an interesting situation. They’re entering a career that will allow them to build assets down the road. Yet, they don’t have the assets now and we want them to be able to get there safely without the financial pitfalls that young physicians may often face.”

The program walks students through their projected financial situations at ages 28, 38, 48, and so on. The idea is to give students digestible snapshots of their financial futures. SmartPath also has online coaching and an app that offers a budgeting tool and bite-sized chunks of the course to help students well beyond medical school.

If program feedback indicates student approval, Deshpande is equally excited to work with Emory School of Medicine students. “They are incredibly well prepared,” he says of the students who attend his courses. “These are smart people that simply need information and a strategy. I look forward to working with the School of Medicine for years to come.”
Annual School of Medicine Alumni Awards

On May 3, 2017, Emory School of Medicine Alumni Association presented awards to eight of its distinguished alumni. Nearly two hundred guests were in attendance to celebrate the award recipients.

Distinguished Medical Achievement Award

Carlos del Rio 86MR 88MR is the Hubert Professor and Chair of the Department of Global Health at the Rollins School of Public Health and Professor of Medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases at Emory School of Medicine.

Katherine L. Heilpern 87M is the Ada Lee and Pete Correll Professor and Chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Emory School of Medicine.

Emory School of Medicine Award of Honor

Joseph Miller, Jr. 62C 65M 74MR is the former Chief of Thoracic Surgery, Department of Surgery at Emory School of Medicine, and most recently served as Chief of Thoracic Surgery, Piedmont Heart Institute.

Laurence S. Sperling 85C 89M 92MR 97MR is Professor of Medicine (Cardiology) at Emory School of Medicine and Professor of Global Health in the Hubert Department of Global Health in the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University.

The Distinction in Community Service Award

J. Paul Ferguson 59C 63M is a neurosurgeon and past President and CEO of the Harbin Clinic, a multispecialty clinic in Rome, GA.

Veda Johnson 84M 88MR is Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Emory School of Medicine and Director of PARTNERS for Equity in Child and Adolescent Health.

The Arnall Patz Lifetime Achievement Award

John H. Burson III 75M 79MR is an otolaryngologist and founder of Carrollton Ear, Nose, and Throat.

Charles B. Gillespie 57C 61M 63MR 66MR is an orthopaedic surgeon from Albany, GA, founder of the Albany Orthopedic Center, and author of the EMT oath and code of conduct.

All medical alumni are encouraged to submit nominations for next year's awards by February 1, 2018. For more information or to submit a nomination, contact Ruthy Cunningham at 404.727.5913 or ruth.cunningham@emory.edu.

A Special Thanks to our 2016–2017 Emory University School of Medicine Alumni Association Board Members

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New Program Links Students with Alumni for Career Guidance

CHOOSING A SPECIALTY AND EXPLORING career options can be overwhelming. Fortunately for Emory School of Medicine students, EmoryDOCS (Development of Careers and Specialty Choice) offers several resources to assist in exploring those career choices.

Still in its first year, the EmoryDOCS program aims to provide workshops, counseling, information panels, and mock interviews to help students explore their career options, as well as navigate the processes of choosing a specialty and getting into residency.

EmoryDOCS offers curricular workshops that focus on helping students understand how their values match their career choice. Other sessions cover more practical matters like interviewing strategies. But the main goal, according to Mary Dolan 87M 89PH, Director of EmoryDOCS, “is to provide exposure to medical specialties earlier in a student’s time at Emory.”

“Students rotate through ‘primary’ specialties on the wards,” Dr. Dolan adds, “but may not experience other specialties until they are already applying for residency positions.”

Last year, in an effort to reach students in different ways, faculty sat down with students to discuss specialties and give mentoring advice in a “speed dating” format. According to student feedback, it was a “fun and refreshing activity” and a “nice starting point for considering specialties.”

One of the more effective ways EmoryDOCS hopes to help students is by connecting students with School of Medicine alumni to get a closer perspective from physicians, as Dr. Dolan puts it, “in the trenches.”

“The idea is to give students an opportunity to talk with doctors outside of the academic setting,” says Anna Kuo 89M, who serves as an alumni contact for EmoryDOCS. Dr. Kuo, a pediatrician in private practice, is helping to shape how students can network with alumni by identifying former students who might be interested in serving as advisors to current students. “So far, everyone we’ve reached out to has been really enthusiastic,” says Dr. Kuo.

In addition to learning more about non-academic and private practice specialties, Drs. Dolan and Kuo hope that alumni will be able to offer advice about residency programs, where they trained, and how to best navigate a path toward a particular practice.

“It’s a work-in-progress,” says Dr. Dolan, who hopes that more alumni will become involved. “Dr. Eley and Dr. Stephens [Interim Dean of Emory School of Medicine and Vice President for Research at Woodruff Health Sciences Center] have been very supportive of our program. We’re all excited about this next step in helping students find their way.”

“From an alumni perspective, it’s a great way to reconnect with the school,” says Dr. Kuo. “And I think alumni are excited by the opportunity to shepherd students into those fields they are passionate about.”

Students are also enthusiastic about what EmoryDOCS has to offer. “It really pushes you to evaluate, assess, and challenge yourself,” says one student after a Values Auction, a session that helps students match their values with future career options. “This was good to think about now,” says another student. “I would like to re-evaluate myself when I get closer to residency. I would definitely recommend this for next year.”

For more information about how to support EmoryDOCS, or if you’re a graduate who is interested in participating in the EmoryDOCS program, please visit: http://www.med.emory.edu/education/emorydocs/index.html
Welcome Reception for New Medical Students and Stethoscope Presentation by Alumni Association
Wednesday, July 26, 2017, 4:00 p.m.
Woodruff Health Sciences Administration Building Plaza

Emory Medical Alumni Weekend
in conjunction with Emory Homecoming and Family Weekend
Friday–Sunday, October 20–22, 2017

Emory Medical Alumni Reception at AAMC in Boston
Sunday, November 5, 2017, 6:15 p.m.

Comments…
Questions…
Suggestions…
Please contact the SOM Development and Alumni Relations Office at 404.727.0462 or medicalalumni@emory.edu

If you no longer wish to receive fundraising requests to support Emory University, Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University, or Emory Healthcare, please contact us at 1762 Clifton Road, NE, Suite 1400, Atlanta, GA 30322, email askemory@emory.edu, or call 404.727.9503, and we will remove you from our list.