



An Update from: **Larry R. Kaiser, MD, FACS**  
Dean, Lewis Katz School of Medicine  
President and CEO, Temple University Health System  
Senior Executive Vice President for Health Affairs, Temple University

**Gerald H. Sterling, PhD**  
Senior Associate Dean for Education, Lewis Katz School of Medicine

**DECEMBER 2018**

### **LKSOM SGA Reminds the Temple Community About the Spirit of Giving**

Throughout November, the LKSOM Student Government Association (SGA) spearheaded a food and coat drive to support the efforts of Philabundance and the Branch Family Foundation's Robert Morris School Coat Drive. Students were reminded that programs like this make a huge difference to the Philadelphia community since more than 25 percent of families live below the federal poverty level, making coats a budget "extra."

Large boxes, each representing a doctoring college, were arranged in the MERB Commons and, as November passed, they were filled with healthy food items, coats, jackets, mittens, and gloves. To promote involvement and healthy competition, Doctoring College Cup points were awarded to the colleges. Students collected 650 pounds of food, with Montier bringing in 250 of them and winning the drive! Congratulations, Montier! Thanks to all who participated.

Most importantly, as one part of SGA's ongoing work collaborating with and learning from Temple's neighbors, students continue efforts to strengthen our community connections.

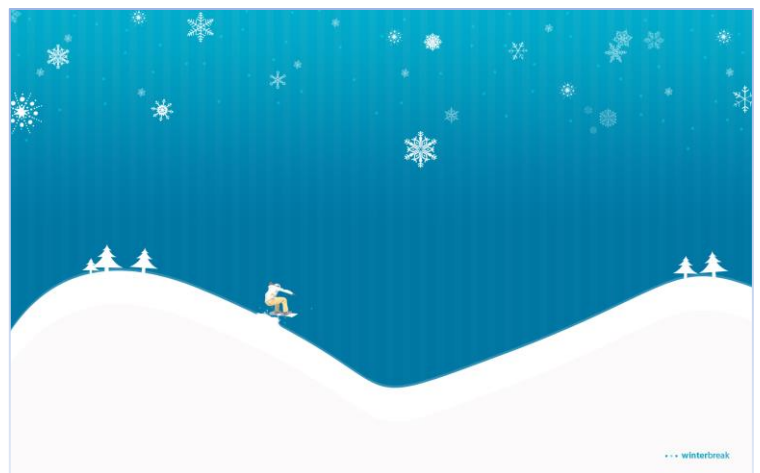
### **Season's Greetings**

We hope the upcoming winter break will serve as a time to share with family and friends, but also for relaxation and regeneration. We in the Dean's Office wish you all the joys of the season and much happiness and success throughout the coming year.

#### *Upcoming Class Meetings:*

**Class of 2020** – January 7, 2019 from 8:00 - 10:00 am  
Class Meeting followed by Residency Day

**Class of 2019** – January 7, 2019 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Class Meeting



## Grading and Promotional Policies for MD Degree Candidates

The faculty and academic administrators of the Lewis Katz School of Medicine (LKSOM) recognize their responsibility to assure that graduates of the School are intellectually, clinically, and ethically qualified and have the maturity and emotional stability to assume the professional responsibilities implicit in the receipt of the degree of Doctor of Medicine. Therefore, they have established these policies to guide themselves and the students in pursuing a level of academic and professional excellence required for the conferral of that degree. Specific procedures have been established to provide uniformity and equity of process in all situations requiring administrative action.

The Curriculum Committee and the Dean of the School of Medicine approve all grading and promotional policies.

Faculty are responsible for implementing grading policies, regulations, and procedures. They may do so as members of a department that administers courses or as members of an integrated course. For the courses for which they are responsible, faculty members: a) establish standards to be met for attaining course credit and criteria for assigning specific grades, and b) assign final grades for course work.

The Senior Associate Dean for Education administers the promotional policies, regulations, and procedures, as approved by the Curriculum Committee and the Dean.

Furthermore, there are two standing subcommittees of the Curriculum Committee that are integral to our grading and promotional procedures and policies.

The **Student Academic Standards and Promotions Committee** is a standing committee comprised of faculty in part appointed by the Dean and in part elected by the Medical Faculty Senate, as well as students nominated by the Student Government Association and then appointed by the Senior Associate Dean for Education. The purpose of this Committee is to make recommendations to the Senior Associate Dean for Education about student promotions and disciplinary actions, based on academic (course grades) and non-academic (professionalism) issues. Furthermore, the Committee is responsible for reviewing the academic standards and promotional guidelines, and making recommendation to the Curriculum Committee, as needed.

The **Student Learning Environment and Appeals Committee** is another standing subcommittee of the School, with faculty in part appointed by the Dean and in part elected by the Medical Faculty Senate, and with students nominated by Student Government Association and then appointed by the Associate Dean for Student Affairs. The Committee works to enhance the learning environment of the school by addressing student concerns about mistreatment. It also hears student appeals of grades and promotional and disciplinary decisions. The Committee makes recommendations regarding specific student issues to the Dean, whose decisions are final. The Committee also makes recommendations for general learning environment issues to the Curriculum Committee for their action.

More information regarding grading and promotional policies can be found in the Student and Faculty Handbook on our website under Student Resources.

<https://medicine.temple.edu/education/student-life-resources/resources-students/md-student-faculty-handbook/medical-education-4>

## 'Tis the Season

The holiday season is upon us, which can often lead to additional expenses (travel, gifts, etc.). According to CNBC, the best day to book a flight for the cheapest airfare is Sunday. Also, try to book at least 21 days in advance. While there is no particular day that is required to purchase Amtrak train tickets, it is advised to buy at least 14 days in advance to score the best prices.



As for gifts, your friends and family understand you're a full-time student and living on limited funds. Set your budget, make your list, and be sure to look for sales and deals as much as possible for any gifts you are purchasing. Sales are constantly happening and seem to start earlier each year. You can also purchase discounted gift cards at sites like raise.com and cardpool.com to use to purchase items or as the gift. Save wherever you can to stretch your money as far as possible.

If you're using a credit card for your purchases, be sure to not use that as an excuse to spend more money than you actually have. Stick with your budget and pay off your expenses when you receive the bill. That way, you won't have a balance or pay interest, and you are building good credit (and a good habit)!

## Well-Being Space

We are excited to announce that starting in January, **Dr. Kate Connolly** from LKSOM's Personal Counseling Services will be offering a Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction group weekly on a drop-in basis. Mindfulness Meditation has been demonstrated as an effective method in mitigating medical students' stress and we hope that you'll take advantage of this opportunity to learn useful skills and techniques to bring more mindfulness into your everyday life. Please be on the lookout in your e-mail in the coming weeks for more information about how you can join the group.

As you may be aware, a meditation room is located in the lower level of the library (room 041A) and is available during the library's hours of operation. More information can be found at: <https://library.temple.edu/hsl/services>

Also, as a reminder, information about counseling services is available at: <https://medicine.temple.edu/personal-counseling-services>

*The Well-Being Advisory Committee is dedicated to combining efforts to enhance student well-being at LKSOM. If you have any related resources or events that you'd like to contribute, please email **Jacquee Lukawski** at [jkl@temple.edu](mailto:jkl@temple.edu).*

## Student Interest Group in Neurology

The LKSOM Student Interest Group in Neurology (SIGN) functions to forge relationships between medical students and physicians in the field of neurology. The activities provided through SIGN serve to foster a growing interest in neurology, as LKSOM has an ongoing trend of placing more students in neurology over the last couple of years. Just last year, Temple matched 15 students in Neurology or Child Neurology, more than almost any medical school in the country. We believe this showcases a growing interest in the field that we hope to encourage through several lunch talks and hands-on events.

SIGN invites subspecialists from Neurology to talk about their careers, what a typical day might look like, and how they found their love of Neurology. Last year, students heard from Dr. Ignacio Valencia, a child neurologist at St. Christopher's Hospital who sees a variety of developmental abnormalities in pediatric patients with neurologic conditions. He described what he loves specifically about Child Neurology, a smaller specialty which is growing in popularity every year.

In October, SIGN hosted the "Stroke Journey Event" with faculty advisor **Dr. Mercedes Jacobson**. Together we organized a walk-through of how a stroke patient presents at the emergency department and all the steps that eventually lead to treatment at Neuro ICU. Students were able to ask questions with neurology fellows and residents over lunch. The success of event has encouraged spring planning in order to offer opportunities to see what it looks like to work in a neurologic subspecialty whether that be epileptology, neurodegenerative disorders, stroke neurology, or others!

Another core value of SIGN is community outreach and education. Every semester we offer sessions on basic brain education, in particular to children. We visited HERO and held a Brain Awareness Day where we taught students about the different parts of the brain and how helmets offer protection. At the Kenderton Health Fair, the elementary students were fascinated by the cadaver brain we used, exclaiming enthusiasm over how a human brain really looks. This ends up being one of the favorite tables every year and it gives us a chance to start talking about basic neuroscience with local youth. We will continue to offer similar events over the next few months, always raising the importance of brain awareness!



Neurology is a dynamic and exciting field. If you're interested in getting involved in SIGN or in finding out more about what we do, feel free to reach out to our executive board. We'll be looking for excited future neurologists to take over soon!

LKSOM SIGN Executive Board

Alex Testino	<a href="mailto:alex.testino@temple.edu">alex.testino@temple.edu</a>
Azam Husain	<a href="mailto:azam@temple.edu">azam@temple.edu</a>
Jasmine Mavani	<a href="mailto:jasmine.mavani@temple.edu">jasmine.mavani@temple.edu</a>
Rina Bhalodi	<a href="mailto:rina.bhalodi@temple.edu">rina.bhalodi@temple.edu</a>

**SIGN**  
*Student Interest Group in Neurology*