



IN BRIEF

News Roundup for Lewis Katz School of Medicine Students

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

OCTOBER 2018

LCME Update

As many of you know, our medical school underwent an accreditation site visit from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) in March 2017. In October 2017, we received a determination that the Lewis Katz School of Medicine will continue full accreditation status of its medical education program for the full eight-year term allowable under LCME standards. The Committee did note areas in need of attention and since the time of the visit, we have worked to address those issues identified by the LCME. As required, we provided a status report in August 2018, showing the steps that have been taken and the resulting outcomes in those areas where we were found to be either Satisfactory with Monitoring or Unsatisfactory.

Last week, we received the LCME's response to our August submission. We are both pleased and proud to announce that LKSOM is Compliant with all the LCME Standards and Satisfactory in all of the elements by which we are measured. There was one element that the LCME found satisfactory, but requested additional information. We are thrilled with this determination, and will continue to work together to maintain compliance with all LCME standards and elements. It is our mission to continually provide excellence in our education programs, student support services, and learning environment and intend to do just that.

Dozens of faculty, staff, administration, Dean's Staff, and students are involved in our ongoing efforts to enhance our school. We thank them all and look forward to continuing our work to enrich our institution.



VOTE!

Remember that Tuesday, November 6th is ELECTION DAY.

We encourage all students, faculty, and staff to exercise their right and VOTE!

Your Safety Is Our Concern

As we approach the cold weather months and it becomes dark as we travel to and from LKSOM, we'd like to remind you that you can never be too safe. That's our message to our students, faculty, and staff. Allied Barton Security and the Temple University Police Department patrol our campus. The number of police officers on foot was increased in order to enhance their visibility during commute hours. Allied Barton bicycle patrols also cover the area. There are blue emergency phone kiosks throughout the Health Sciences Campus. The Walking Escort Program is available to help get you to your destination safely. These escorts are Allied Barton security officers who accompany students/staff upon request while on the HSC. To request this service, call 8-WALK from a campus phone or 215-777-WALK (9255) from a cell phone. Walking escorts are available from 4 p.m. to 6 a.m. seven days a week.

We encourage our community members to be particularly aware of their surroundings while walking. If possible, travel with friends and walk in well-lit, regularly traveled streets. Please keep focused and refrain from using your cell phones while walking. If you think you are being followed, cross the street. If you are being pursued, do anything that might summon assistance, such as making noise and flagging down a passing motorist.

If you have not already done so, please sign up for TU Alerts. TUALerts are used to communicate information about something occurring that requires **immediate action** on the part of the campus community, and are usually sent because of an **imminent public safety danger**. TUALerts also inform the Temple University network of when there is an unexpected need to evacuate because of a utility failure. Please go to <https://safety.temple.edu/emergency-preparedness/tualert/register-tualerts> in order to register.

If, at any time, you have concerns about your safety or those around you, **do not hesitate** to call Temple Police at 215-204-1234 (1-1234 from a campus phone) or Philadelphia Police at 911. While in our buildings, if you sense something that makes you uneasy, please bring it to the attention of the security guards at the front desk. (MERB Security Desk: 2-3011 from a campus phone or 215-707-3011). Please remember: Under Resources on our website, there is an Emergency Preparedness section that houses building emergency sheets for each of our buildings and contains important contact numbers as well as emergency procedures.



FAFSA News

The 2019-2020 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is now open (as of October 1st) to submit. You can submit this online at www.fafsa.gov or through the new MyStudentAid app—available for both Apple and Android. Your 2017 income information will be needed to complete the application, as Federal Student Aid uses a prior-prior year income format. You can retrieve your tax information by using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool for the most accurate income information; otherwise, be sure to have your 2017 tax information handy.

LKSOM's priority deadline is March 1, 2019. Meeting this deadline will ensure your financial aid offer for the 2019-2020 academic year will be sent as soon as it is available in early April.

Are you unsure if you should file a FAFSA? If you plan to borrow federal student loans (the Direct Unsubsidized and/or Direct Grad PLUS) during the 2019-2020 academic year, the FAFSA is required. If you would like to be considered for need-based financial aid, the FAFSA is required.

Please reach out with any questions or if you want help filing! Stop by MERB 329 or e-mail Lisa (lisa.duncan@temple.edu) or Joanne (joanneh@temple.edu).

Well-Being Space

As you may be aware, World Mental Health Day was celebrated this year on October 10. In this vein, we would like to encourage you to attend the upcoming Delaware Valley Medical Student Wellness Collaborative's mixer on the evening of Tuesday, October 30 at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. The event provides an opportunity to network with medical students from the greater Philadelphia area and a safe space to discuss mental health issues affecting students. The full Mütter Museum will be open for this event. Activities include a display of student artwork, live mental health survey, interactive "post secrets" type exhibit about mental health topics, drink ticket mingle, and Mütter Museum scavenger hunt. Attire is business casual.

Registration (\$10) at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2nd-medical-student-mutter-mixer-tickets-50858999637>

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.*

What to Do in the Event of a Needlestick Injury or Exposure

Many students have questions regarding the steps they need to take in the event of a needlestick injury or exposure to infectious materials/environmental hazards. While this information is contained in the Student and Faculty Handbook located in the Student Resources section of our website, we wanted to include the information here as well.

Needlestick Injury

In the event of a needlestick injury, the incident should be reported to the attending physician and/or clerkship director if possible. Within the Temple Health System, immediately go to Temple Occupational Health Services during regular business hours—Temple University Hospital Basement, Rock Pavilion, (215)707-4455. On nights and weekends, proceed to the Emergency Room. Be sure to follow the claim submittal instructions for the student Accident Insurance policy as described in the Accident Insurance section of the student handbook. Follow-up care is managed by Student Health Services. All decisions regarding source patient testing, student testing, and prophylactic treatment will follow CDC guidelines, which are in compliance with University guidelines.

For students at affiliate campuses, please refer to Appendix B of the Handbook.

Exposure to Infectious Materials/Environmental Hazard

In the event of exposure to infectious materials, including exposure to blood, body fluids, etc. or an environmental hazard, the protocol is the same as with needlestick injury. Report the incident to the attending physician and/or clerkship director and proceed to Temple Occupational Health Services if during regular business hours. If the incident occurs at night or on the weekend, go to the Emergency Room. Please advise personnel that you have student accident insurance. Follow-up care is managed by Student Health Services. All decisions regarding source patient testing, student testing, and prophylactic treatment will follow CDC guidelines, which are in compliance with University guidelines.

Student Accident Insurance

All medical students are enrolled in a supplemental accident plan that reviews incidents such as needlesticks, sharp injuries, etc. The claims administrator of this policy is A-G Administrators, Inc.

The student accident policy is not a health insurance plan. It is a supplemental policy that only covers injuries which result from an accident while performing required academic activities, and it coordinates the payments made from your health insurance.

If you sustain an injury as a result of a required academic activity, you must submit a claim under the student accident policy. To file a claim, you will need to complete a student accident claim form, making sure to provide information about your health insurance. Claim forms which are missing information will delay the claim process. If necessary, A-G Administrators, Inc. will write to you directly to request additional confidential health information.

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The claim form must be submitted within 30 days of the injury date. All claim forms must be submitted via mail or fax directly to A-G Administrators, Inc. Claims Department and a copy must be mailed or faxed to the Temple University Benefits Office.

Temple University Benefits Department

Attn: GERALYN O'KANE
TASB 083-39
1852 N.10th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19129
FAX: (215)926-2288

For questions regarding Student Accident Insurance, please contact **GERALYN O'KANE** at (215)926-2280 or the Benefits Department at (215)926-2270.

For further information on the Student Accident Insurance plan as well as a claim form, please visit: <https://www.temple.edu/hr/students/accident.htm>

National Physician Assistant (PA) Week

by Jennifer Windstein, PA-C

Every year, in early October, we celebrate National Physician Assistant (PA) week. The week kicks off on October 6th which is also National PA Day. National PA Day also happens to be the birthday of Dr. Eugene Stead, the founding father of the PA profession. National PA Week is a week for certified PAs and Physician Assistant students to show they are involved in their communities while educating on the PA profession. They teach what a PA is, what a PA does, and in what capacities they can work. The week also recognizes PAs who have contributed to the profession and to the nation's health. Many PA schools take part by fundraising, participating in community health events, or joining in other PA service events. This year, the Lewis Katz School of Medicine's PA Program hosted a community blood pressure screening event in Temple University Hospital's lobby. At the event

the PA students screened, identified, and referred people for followups if necessary due to high blood pressure readings. The students had fun working on their blood pressure taking skills while educating people on the risks and prevention of high blood pressure. The students also held a lunch with practicing PAs from Temple University to build relationships and mingle with their future colleagues. Finally, the weeklong event ended with a well-deserved pizza party for the students and faculty of the PA program.



SGA Highlight: Prevention Point Philadelphia

Prevention Point Philadelphia (PPP) is the only syringe-exchange program in Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania. Prevention Point Philadelphia provides harm reduction counseling, syringe exchange, free medical care, support and education groups, and referrals to social services and drug treatment. The organization distributes syringes six days a week.

Jose Benitez, Executive Director of PPP, along with Ronda Goldfein of the AIDS Law Project and former Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell, have officially announced they will be opening the nation's first overdose prevention site. This represents a huge breakthrough in our city's fight to end the opioid crisis and, like syringe exchange programs before it, an incredibly important milestone in the history of American public health.

During the AIDS epidemic, IV drug use accounted for over 50 percent of new HIV infections per year. That number plummeted with the opening of Syringe Exchange Programs (SEPs), and today IV drug use accounts for only 2 percent of new HIV infections. The advisory board for the site is composed of many city leaders including LKSOM's own Dean Larry Kaiser in addition to Health Commissioner Thomas Farley.

PPP's involvement in opening the first U.S. overdose prevention site (OPS) is groundbreaking. Unless there is rapid change in other cities considering OPS (San Francisco, New York City, Seattle, Ithaca, and Baltimore), Philadelphia will be the first to step up to the federal government, risking prosecution trying to open an OPS in order to effectively address the opioid crisis. The potential result is that PPP is likely to go to federal court as it violates the Controlled Substances Act. However, OPSs are a life-saving, public health care intervention in the face of the opioid overdose crisis. It is expected that an exception will be made, as was done for SEPs during the HIV/AIDS epidemic (important note: Syringe Exchange Programs are still technically illegal by federal law).

Several LKSOM students have been working hard on this project for the last two years, some very closely with Prevention Point and the Department of Public Health. For more information about how to get involved with Prevention Point, you can contact:

Jessica Rupp, tug90127@temple.edu

Christina Garces, tug79791@temple.edu

Miranda Haslam, miranda.haslam@temple.edu

Akhil Katakam, tuh20146@temple.edu

Below are some articles for more information:

<http://www2.philly.com/philly/health/addiction/safe-injection-site-philadelphia-ed-rendell-prevention-point-20181002.html>

<http://www2.philly.com/philly/opinion/commentary/opioids-safe-injection-sites-needle-exchange-ed-rendell-safehouse-20181005.html>