In June 2021, the University of Mississippi School of Medicine (UM SOM) hosted its first on-campus Promoting Recruitment Opportunities in Medicine with Individual Study Experiences (PROMISE) Program Conference. The pandemic prevented PROMISE from being in-person last summer. PROMISE is an early assurance program for students underrepresented in medicine. The main goals of PROMISE are to introduce students to career opportunities in medicine, engage the students in enrichment programs that will help strengthen their academic foundation and expose the students to practicing clinicians. In addition, the program is designed to encourage the students to pursue a career as a physician and to guide the students through the processes and preparation required to apply to and attend medical school. This includes preparation for the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT).

At this summer’s PROMISE Program Conference, 28 students were given the opportunity to perform hands-on activities in the simulation center and respiratory therapy exercises; visit the University Heart Study and learn cardiovascular techniques by the department; shadow physicians in a specialty of their choice; and attend a suture lab instructed by members of our surgery department. Additionally, the students attended a medical student panel along with various lectures given by the SOM staff. These experiences provided insight into MCAT preparation and life as a medical school student. The students who complete the PROMISE Program and meet the metrics established by the Admissions Executive Committee will be granted a seat in the SOM.

NearPod Tip for Live Sessions
By Elizabeth Jacobs

NearPod provides several methods to quickly gauge student understanding during a live lecture. Quizzes and Polling Questions are easy options. However, if student names are hidden for anonymity when sharing results, there is a difference to consider.

When student names are hidden in NearPod quiz results, so are their answer selections! Faculty may click in the blank areas(1) to view the question and response details(2), but faculty do not know if response selected is a correct or incorrect answer.

Polling questions allow student names to be hidden, but the answers selected by each student are still visible in the teacher view. There is no need to click for additional details here. The question is shown at the top, and below the graph, a list of answer options and what percentage of the student's selected each is available.

Each option provides immediate feedback to help keep students actively engaged in the lesson. To learn more about using NearPod, enroll in the NearPod for Education course.

School of Medicine Mission Statement
The University of Mississippi School of Medicine is committed to training skilled and compassionate physicians to provide high quality and equitable health care particularly to the state's residents, including diverse and underserved populations. The school prepares learners to provide excellent care through programs of innovative education, state-of-the-art research and comprehensive clinical practice.
Student Support Services

Now that we have recently completed M1 Welcome Week and have new students on campus, it is a perfect time to review the support services offered by UMMC and the School of Medicine.

It is easiest to think about these in three main categories – academic, mental, and physical well-being.

1. Academic
   a. The Office of Academic Support, led by Dr. Natalie Gaugh and Dr. Penni Foster, offers free consulting services to all students to help with time management, study skills, stress management, testing strategies, and obtaining a tutor.
      i. Link to make an appointment: https://www.umc.edu/AcademicSupport
      ii. Link to request a tutor: https://www.umc.edu/tutoring services
   b. The School of Medicine also has hired our own academic advisor for the medical students, Dakota Bibbs. He has immediately proved to be an excellent and enthusiastic resource for the students. Dakota may be reached at nbibbs@umc.edu.

2. Mental Health and Well-being
   a. The Student Counseling and Wellness Center is operated by staff psychologists and psychiatrist who are NOT involved in the training or evaluation or promotion of any medical students. It is a completely confidential resource and is led by Dr. Philip Merideth and Dr. Danny Burgess.
      i. To make an appointment, call 601-815-5588 or email scwc@umc.edu.
      ii. Link to website: https://www.umc.edu/scwc/
   b. The Humana Student Employee Assistance Program is a third party, off-campus resource. Licensed professional counselors are available to speak 24/7. Students are able to talk with a trained professional who will ask about the situation and connect the individual with an expert who can assist. When appropriate, referrals are made to a local professional for up to 3 face-to-face sessions per problem at no cost. Personal information will be kept confidential.
      i. To make an appointment with a provider, call 866-219-1232.
      ii. More information available on the Student Affairs website at https://www.umc.edu/HumanaEAP

3. Physical Health
   a. Student Employee Health
      i. Responsible for occupational health services for students including immunizations, preventive training, and initial treatment for on the job injuries.
      ii. Hours are 7 – 4:30 M-F. Contact them at 601-984-1185.
   b. Quick Care Primary Care
      i. Provides services for minor illnesses such as sore throats, ear aches, UTI, URI, etc.
      ii. Located at 764 Lakeland Drive. Hours are 7 - 5 M-F. Contact information is 601-984-6800.
   c. Telehealth Services
      i. UMMC2YOU app. Used for evaluation of minor illnesses.
      ii. Available 7A – 7P M-F.
   d. COVID Concern Hotline - https://empcovidhotline.umc.edu/ for COVID symptoms or exposure.

The graphic below is an excellent summary of what we offer for physical and mental well-being. We have it posted on our Student Affairs website. Please print this off in your areas as a specific reminder.

As one of the parents mentioned at Family Day, the students themselves often do not recognize issues until it is too late. We count on you to be our eyes and ears. Please reinforce the utilization of these resources with our students or reach out to Dr. Lyssa Weatherly or me for issues or questions. Thank you for helping us work together to look out for the well-being of our students.

Student Council

McMullan

Clinical Vignette Writing Circle

The Office of Medical Education is organizing the Clinical Vignette Writing Circle allowing basic science and clinical faculty to collaborate in writing test items similar to those utilized on national licensure examinations. The two-hour sessions will be held monthly on the fourth Thursday at 1:30 p.m. immediately following the Curriculum Committee meeting in room 323 of the SOM Medical Education Building. The sessions began on August 26, 2021, and will continue until June 23, 2022.