



Medical Student Council Meeting
Tuesday, March **24th**, 2026 at 6:00 PM
Student Center Main Lounge
Minutes

Voting Members in Attendance: *Name (proxy for name)*

Mike Lynch (proxy for Shadman Kazi), Abigail Yuhan, Matthew Rubin, Gretchen Mackie, Eric Hakimi, Genesis Rodriguez, Carlos Juca, Hend Heikal, Dominic Williams, Hannah Brown, Kunika Chahal, Samantha Lam, Kyle Reid (proxy for Ijeoma Okoronkwo and Mandy Azmi), Eric Acosta (proxy for Chris Montalvo and Abiha Naqvi), Michel Liu (proxy for Rahat Elahi)

Guests in Attendance:

Adam Burgman, Schuyler Hooke, Jeffrey Putman, Daniel Yusupov, Mahila Krishnamurthy, Nicholas Stratigakis, Anthony Lin

Approved absences:

Chris Montalvo, Abiha Naqvi, Mandy Azmi, Shadman Kazi, Ijeoma Okoronkwo, Rahat Elahi

Minutes recorded by Abigail Yuhan.

Kunika Chahal and Hannah Brown presiding over the meeting.

Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting called to order at 6:15 PM with quorum being present.

1. New Business

a. Class Updates

i. 2026

1. **Ongoing/Repeat Issues:**

- a. Transition to Residency schedule or when we can expect a schedule update
 - i. Graduation ceremony logistics
 - ii. Hooders logistics
 - iii. Venue is not open yet (venue only opens for the summer)

2. **New Issues:**

a.

ii. 2027

1. **Ongoing/Repeat Issues:**

a.

2. **New Issues:**

- a. Want more transparency with evaluations
 - i. Neurology clerkship- evals did not match comments, want to standardize
 - ii. Lazar: Upper leadership meet with leadership at each site so that there are parallel lines of communication
 - 1. Students should discuss comments with clerkship directors, can be escalated to Deans
 - iii. Administration doesn't seem to want to budge on changes to transparency

iii. 2028

1. **Ongoing/Repeat Issues:**

a.

2. **New Issues:**

- a. Concerns about Gateway 2 grading which consists of CBSE, ICD and the notes exam
 - i. Currently failing any single component results in an ID for the entire gateway even if other components were passed
 - ii. Students who failed the notes exam never received feedback

iv. 2029

1. **Ongoing/Repeat Issues:**

- a. Scheduling this Thursday before boat formal- Can we move it 30 minutes earlier?
 - i. Working on it
- b. POPS session this Friday 3/27
 - i. Being worked on, potentially get accommodations for students who need to taken an absence

2. **New Issues:**

- a. There is a gateway assessment scheduled for June 15, which is the first day of summer break
 - i. Students concerned about maintaining professionalism with summer program commitments
 - ii. Also what are the logistics of this exam? Does it show up on our transcript? What happens if you fail? Why were we not told about this exam earlier?
 - iii. Going to discuss in education meeting

b. Budget Requests

i. Orthopedics and Sports Medicine Club- **\$610**

- 1. Match panel event- \$230
 - a. Pizza- \$200
 - b. Soda and cutlery- \$30
- 2. Dodgeball Community Service Event- \$380
 - a. Pizza- \$200
 - b. Sodas and cutlery \$30
 - c. Prizes for the winning team- \$150

- d. In the past, had 40+ students attend this event
- ii. Oncology Club- **\$80**
 - 1. Cancer Health Awareness Symposium- \$25
 - a. Pens, notepads, and stickers- \$25
 - 2. Head and Neck Cancer Screening Event- \$55
 - a. Poster print outs- \$30
 - b. Pens, notepads, and stickers- \$25
 - c. 3-4 volunteers
- iii. Peds-R-Us- **\$47.20**
 - 1. Assembly Activity Kits for Pediatric Patients
 - a. Sent written presentation to Gretchen Mackie, who presented
 - b. Amazon materials for assembly- \$210.37
 - c. Empanada City- \$136.83
 - d. Overspent their budget by \$47.20, so they are requesting that amount
- iv. Leartha Prishtina- **\$720**
 - 1. Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology Annual Meeting
 - 2. Hotel- \$476
 - 3. Membership fee- \$150
 - 4. Food- \$150
 - 5. Conference Registration- \$270
 - 6. Transportation- \$80
 - 7. Requesting \$280 from University Council
 - 8. Need to ask if she has requested from Alumni Association first
 - 9. We also do not cover transportation in terms of ubers unless there is no public transportation, and we do not cover food
- v. Hend Heikal- **\$239.42**
 - 1. 2026 American Academy of Neurology Annual Meeting
 - 2. Registration fee- \$30
 - 3. Airfare- \$289
 - 4. Uber/local transportation- \$163.94 (covered by Alumni Association)
 - 5. Hotel- \$556.48
 - 6. Requesting \$800 from Alumni Association fund
- vi. Nicholas Stratigakis- **\$775.36**
 - 1. American Society of Cataract and Refractory Surgery
 - 2. AirBnb- \$431.36
 - 3. Train- \$244
 - 4. Food/transportation- \$100
 - a. We do not reimburse ubers or food
 - 5. Has met maximum funding for Alumni Association fund from previous conference
- vii. Mahila Krishnamurthy - **\$477.58**
 - 1. Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology
 - 2. ARVO Membership Fee - \$150
 - 3. Conference Registration - \$440

4. Round Trip Flight - \$246.43
5. Hotel - \$371.15
6. Approved for \$800 from Alumni Association fund

Closed Meeting:

- i. Motioned by Matthew Rubin
- ii. Seconded by Michel Liu

Meeting is now closed.

2. New Business

- a. Approval of February Minutes
 - i. Option to approve meeting minutes by Hannah Brown
 - ii. Motion to approve meeting minutes by Hend Heikal, seconded by Matthew Rubin
 1. For - 21
 2. Against - 0
 3. Abstain - 0

Motion passes to approve February minutes.

- b. Orthopedics and Sports Medicine Club Events
 - i. Option to fund 427.92 (amount requested minus leftover budget) by Hannah Brown
 - ii. Motion to fund 427.92 by Genesis Rodriguez, seconded by Matthew Rubin
 1. For - 21
 2. Against - 0
 3. Abstain - 0

Motion passes to approve \$427.92 from Projects and Programs (40-70174-012-30001) to Orthopedics and Sports Medicine Club (40-70260-012-30001) for Match Panel and Dodgeball Community Service Event.

- c. Oncology Club Events
 - i. Option to fund in full by Matthew Rubin
 - ii. Motion to fund in full by Hannah Brown, seconded by Abby Yuhan
 1. For - 21
 2. Against - 0
 3. Abstain - 0

Motion passes to approve \$80 from Projects and Programs (40-70174-012-30001) to Oncology Club (40-70272-012-30001) for Cancer Symposium and Head and Neck Cancer Screening Event.

- d. Peds-R-Us Assembly Activity Kits for Pediatric Patients
 - i. Option to fund in full by Matthew Rubin
 - ii. Motion to fund in full by Hannah Brown, seconded by Gretchen Mackie
 - 1. For - 18
 - 2. Against - 0
 - 3. Abstain - 3

Motion passes to approve \$47.20 from Projects and Programs (40-70174-012-30001) to Peds-R-Us (40-70262-012-30001) for Assembly Activity Kits.

- e. Leartha Prishtina Conference Request
 - i. Option to fund everything minus the \$150 for food (\$570) with the caveat that she first asks Alumni Association by Hannah Brown
 - ii. Motion to fund everything minus the \$150 for food (\$570) with the caveat that she first asks Alumni Association by Gretchen Mackie, seconded by Matthew Rubin
 - 1. For - 21
 - 2. Against - 0
 - 3. Abstain - 0

Motion passes to approve a reimbursement payment of \$570 from Conference Funding (40-70416-012-30001) to Leartha Prishtina for the trip to the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology 2026 Annual Meeting with the caveat that she first asks Alumni Association for reimbursement.

- f. Hend Heikal Conference Request
 - i. Option to fund in full by Kyle Reid
 - ii. Motion to fund in full by Hannah Brown, seconded by Michael Lynch
 - 1. For - 20
 - 2. Against - 0
 - 3. Abstain - 0

Motion passes to approve a reimbursement payment of \$239.42 from Conference Funding (40-70416-012-30001) to Hend Heikal for the trip to the 2026 American Academy of Neurology Annual Meeting.

- g. Nicholas Stratigakis Conference Request
 - i. Option to fund without food/transportation (\$670) by Hannah Brown
 - ii. Motion to fund without food/transportation (\$670) Matthew Rubin, seconded by Kyle Reid
 - 1. For - 21
 - 2. Against - 0
 - 3. Abstain - 0

Motion passes to approve a reimbursement payment of \$775.36 from Conference Funding (40-70416-012-30001) to Nicholas Stratigakis for the trip to the American Society of Cataract and Refractory Surgery.

- h. Mahila Krishnamurthy Conference Request
 - i. Option to fund in full by Hannah Brown
 - ii. Motion to fund in full by Matthew Rubin, seconded by Gretchen Mackie
 - 1. For - 21
 - 2. Against - 0
 - 3. Abstain - 0

Motion passes to approve a reimbursement payment of \$477.58 from Conference Funding (40-70416-012-30001) to Mahila Krishnamurthy for the trip to the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology 2026 Annual Meeting.

Motion to end the meeting by Hannah Brown.

Seconded by Matthew Rubin.

Meeting closed at 7:43 PM.

Minutes were scribed by Abigail Yuhan

Approved by Abigail Yuhan- Medical Council Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AY' followed by a stylized flourish.

Interim Budget Request Form

Date: 3/23/26

Please check one box:

University Council Funding ONLY
 Med Council Funding ONLY
 Other: _____

ORGANIZATION NAME: Oncology Club

PRESIDENT: William Dennis VICE PRESIDENT: Frankie Arturi

TELEPHONE: 909-680-1221 TREASURER: Anthony Lin

PROJECT	ITEMIZED EXPENSES	AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM UNIV COUNCIL	AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM MED COUNCIL	AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM OTHER SOURCE (please specify)
Cancer Health Awareness Symposium	Pens, notepads and stickers: \$25		\$25	
Head and Neck Cancer Screening Event	Poster print outs:\$30 Pens, notepads, stickers: \$25		\$55	

USE THE BACK OF THIS FORM IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED. PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY AND CLEARLY. ILLEGIBLE REQUESTS WILL BE REJECTED.

INDEPENDENT STUDENT INTERIM BUDGET REQUEST FORM

This form is to be used by students who would like funding for an event or project but have no club affiliations. **Before considering acting independently of a club, please make every effort to work in conjunction with an already existing organization/club that shares similar interests.** Funding for any projects/events will be provided at the discretion of Med Council and shall be based on the following criteria:

- Available Med Council Funds
- Merits of the student(s) which may include but are not limited to:
 - Frequency and quality of the work and activities performed
 - Size and diversity of the event's attendees
 - Past budget requests and money usage

Any event/project must have a lead coordinator who will ultimately be responsible in making sure that all forms are properly filled out, all receipts are attached and whom Med Council can correspond with. Med Council reserves the right to not reimburse any amount of money that was not used for its intended purpose as detailed in this form and approved at a Med Council meeting.

Student(s) are reminded to keep all receipts pertaining to the event/project for proper and full reimbursement. Please consult with Kristen Diorio and/or the Med Council treasurer at mcbtreasurer@gmail.com to ensure all required forms are appropriately filled out as well as with any other questions.

Event/Project Title: Ophthalmic Adverse Events and Case Seriousness in FAERS Reports for Sofdra

(Sofpironium Bromide)

Date(s) of event/project: May 4-6, 2026

Brief description of event/project: AARVO conference where I will be presenting my original work!

Lead coordinator/planner: Learta Prishtina

email: learta.prishtina@downstate.edu

List other student(s) working on the event/project: N/A

How many people do you expect to attend? 1

The event/project was advertised/pertains to the: (select all that apply)

College of Medicine

Graduate School

CHRP Entire Downstate Community

How was the event/project advertised?

Email

Class Announcement(s)

Other:

Has this event/project ever been done before? Yes No If yes, when (e.g. annually)?

Are there any clubs/organizations co-sponsoring this event/project? Yes No

If answered YES to the previous question, please list the clubs/organizations and how they plan to contribute (if they are contributing money, indicate how much):

Itemized Budget:

Items (e.g. food, supplies, etc.)	Cost per item	Total Cost (for each line)
Hotel	476	476
Membership Fee	150	150
Conference Registration	270	270

Total: 896
minus other funding:
Asking amount: 896

Funding Request:

Amount from Med Council: 570 University Council: 326

Amount from other resources (i.e. grants, department donations, etc.): 0

Please include any additional information that you believe Med Council should be aware of.

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Event/Project Title: **Association Between Obstructive Sleep Apnea and Risk of Corneal Ulceration and Other Ocular Sequelae**

Date(s) of event/project: **4/10/26-4/12/26**

Brief description of event/project: **Podium presentation of research paper**

Lead coordinator/planner: **Nicholas Stratigakis** email: **Nicholas.stratigakis@downstate.edu**

List other student(s) working on the event/project: **Michael Kozlov**

How many people do you expect to attend? **50-100**

The event/project was advertised/pertains to the: (select all that apply)

College of Medicine Graduate School CHRP Entire Downstate Community

How was the event/project advertised?

Email Class Announcement(s) Other:

Has this event/project ever been done before? Yes No If yes, when (e.g. annually)?

Are there any clubs/organizations co-sponsoring this event/project? Yes No

If answered YES to the previous question, please list the clubs/organizations and how they plan to contribute (if they are contributing money, indicate how much):

Itemized Budget:

<u>Items (e.g. food, supplies, etc.)</u>	Cost per item	Total Cost (for each line)
AirBnb	431.36	431.36
Train	244	244
Food/transportation	100	100

Total: 775.36
minus other funding:
Asking amount: 775.36

Funding Request:

Amount from Med Council: 775.36

University Council:

Amount from other resources (i.e. grants, department donations, etc.):

Please include any additional information that you believe Med Council should be aware of.

INDEPENDENT STUDENT INTERIM BUDGET REQUEST FORM

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 - Frequency and quality of the work and activities performed
 - Size and diversity of the event's attendees
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Event/Project Title: *Presentation of AAN 2026 Abstract: Stakeholder Perspectives on Building, Supporting, & Sustaining Clinician Educator Tracks in Neurology Residency: An Explorative Qualitative Study*
Date(s) of event/project: *April 22, 2026*

Brief description of event/project: I will be presenting my abstract at the American Academy of Neurology (AAN) Annual Meeting.

Lead coordinator/planner: Hend Heikal email: hend.heikal@downstate.edu

List other student(s) working on the event/project: Ethan Chang

How many people do you expect to attend?

This is a national conference with broad attendance from physicians, trainees, educators, and researchers.

The event/project was advertised/pertains to the: (select all that apply)

College of Medicine Graduate School CHRP Entire Downstate Community

How was the event/project advertised?

Email Class Announcement(s) Other:

Has this event/project ever been done before? Yes No If yes, when (e.g. annually)?

Are there any clubs/organizations co-sponsoring this event/project? Yes No

If answered YES to the previous question, please list the clubs/organizations and how they plan to contribute (if they are contributing money, indicate how much):

Itemized Budget:

<u>Items (e.g. food, supplies, etc.)</u>	Cost per item	Total Cost (for each line)
Registration fee	\$30.00	
Airfare	\$289.00	
Uber / local transportation.	\$163.94	
Hotel	\$556.48	

Total: 1039.42
minus other funding: 800
Asking amount: 239.42

Funding Request:

Amount from Med Council: \$239.42

University Council: 0

Amount from other resources (i.e. grants, department donations, etc.):

\$800 Alumni Association fund

Please include any additional information that you believe Med Council should be aware of.

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Student(s) are reminded to keep all receipts pertaining to the event/project for proper and full reimbursement. Please consult with Kristen Diorio and/or the Med Council treasurer at mcbtreasurer@gmail.com to ensure all required forms are appropriately filled out as well as with any other questions.

Event/Project Title: **Association of Research in Vision and Ophthalmology
2026 Annual Conference**

Date(s) of event/project: **May 2-7, 2026 in Denver, Colorado**

Brief description of event/project: **My abstract, Deep Learning Model for Automated Macular and Optic Nerve Head Segmentation of Nonhuman Primate OCT Scans, has been selected to be presented as a poster at the 2026 ARVO Conference at the Imaging in the Eye Session on Saturday, May 2.**

Lead coordinator/planner: **Mahila Krishnamurthy email: mahila.krishnamurthy@downstate.edu**

List other student(s) working on the event/project: **N/A**

How many people do you expect to attend? **N/A**

The event/project was advertised/pertains to the: (select all that apply)

College of Medicine Graduate School CHRP Entire Downstate Community

How was the event/project advertised?

Email Class Announcement(s) Other:

Has this event/project ever been done before? Yes No **N/A** If yes, when (e.g. annually)?

Are there any clubs/organizations co-sponsoring this event/project? Yes No

If answered YES to the previous question, please list the clubs/organizations and how they plan to contribute (if they are contributing money, indicate how much):

I have been approved by the Alumni Association for upto \$800 in funding.

Itemized Budget:

<u>Items (e.g. food, supplies, etc.)</u>	Cost per item	Total Cost (for each line)
ARVO Membership Fee	150	150
Conference Registration Fees	440	440
Round Trip Flight NY to Denver	246.43	246.43
Hotel x 1 Night	271.15	271.15
Food/Other Transportation	70	70

Total: 1177.58
minus other funding: 800
Asking amount: 377.58

Funding Request:

Amount from Med Council: 377.58 University Council:

Amount from other resources (i.e. grants, department donations, etc.):

Travel Grant from Alumni Association: 800

Please include any additional information that you believe Med Council should be aware of.