

Student National Medical Association

SNMA is the oldest and largest medical school organization dedicated to serving people of color and underserved communities. The UPSOM chapter has implemented several projects within the Pittsburgh community.

- *East Liberty Presbyterian Church Men's Shelter Soup Kitchen and Blood Pressure Screenings* – Monthly project that performs BP screening for the homeless and provides dinners.
- *Shuman Juvenile Detention Center and AIDS/STD Awareness Project* – Students assist in completing initial health screenings and provide workshops on AIDS/STD's.
- *Medical Explorers* – Medical students help implement programs that expose minority and underprivileged high school students to medicine and biological sciences.
- *Premedical Organization for Minority Students* – Members mentor minority pre-med undergraduates.

Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association

APAMSA Pittsburgh chapter is dedicated to addressing medical issues important to Asian American's, the promotion of Asian American well being, and raising cultural awareness.

- **ESL Health Literacy Program**

This program addresses the health literacy needs of Somali Bantu refugees, orientating the Bantu to Pittsburgh's health care system, and promoting in a culturally appropriate manner positive health behaviors. Medical students develop monthly workshops.

- Examples of other Projects:
 - Annual bone Marrow Drive
 - Pre-med Mentorship Carnegie Mellon
 - Asian American Health Screening Fair

American Medical Association (Medical Student Section)

The AMA-MSS offers many resources to get you started in organizing a community service project or educational program. Past projects have included hunger awareness, medical supply recycling, and health literacy.

Community Vision Quest

The **Ophthalmology Interest Group** directs this program. Projects include the **Guerilla Eye Service** whose mission is to promote eye health education, and free vision screenings to reduce visual impairment in medically underserved communities.

Additional Avenues for Working in the Community:

- Geriatric Experiences for Medical Students
- Student Dermatology for the Underserved (SDU)
- Prevention Point Pittsburgh—Needle Exchange
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender issues
- Annual SEC Community Outreach Clothes Drive

There are also plenty of opportunities through UPSOM organizations to address national and international issues, serving communities throughout the country and around the globe.

Places to start:



University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine



School of Medicine

Oncology Patients and Loving Students' (OPALS) sponsored picnic. Photo: Sarah Heres.



Get Involved!

Community Service Opportunities

Get Involved!

Serving the People of Pittsburgh

What makes our medical school stand-out is our commitment to community



Photo: Andres Turner

service and humane medicine. We value that each person is unique and recognize the importance of being able to understand and relate to our patients as

people. Student community service initiatives allows us to give to the people and communities that we live among and provides opportunities to deepen our skills as humanitarian doctors. We can experience the diversity of needs of the people we serve and become leaders in the delivery of health care.

This brochure introduces opportunities for community service in the Pittsburgh area. The Student Executive Council's Community Service Committee has provided this information. We hope that you look further and lead the way for students to "Get Involved!"

Students And Latinos United Against Disparities

SALUD took the first steps to address the health needs of Latinos in the Pittsburgh area and was founded by medical students as an Albert Schweitzer Fellowship project. Our volunteers provide health education, free health care with student interpreters at the Birmingham Clinic, and run screening and vaccination clinics throughout the year.

Oncology Patients and Loving Students

OPALS provides outreach to pediatric oncology patients at Children's Hospital. The "buddy" program pairs medical students with a child during his/her stay providing relief for the parents, and an opportunity to learn about pediatric oncology from the patient's perspective. Students are also involved in activities such as a Christmas dinner and summer celebration picnic. Pediatric oncologists and social workers give lectures to the group to increase the students' understanding of the special challenges faced by the patients and their families.

Operation Safety Net

OSN, based out of Mercy Hospital of Pittsburgh, is an organization of health professionals, volunteers, and formerly homeless individuals whose mission is to provide health care and social services to Pittsburgh's homeless population. OSN uses a street-based outreach approach, in which small teams walk the streets in an effort to seek out unsheltered homeless persons, building relationships with them and bridging access to health care and social services.



Cover the Uninsured Week (AMSA)

Photo: Andres Turner

American Medical Student Association (AMSA)

AMSA acts as an umbrella group overseeing many smaller organizations and student lead initiatives that provide vital support to the community. Projects have included AID's awareness, covering the uninsured, and domestic violence. Some of AMSA programs include:

•Pregnant Adolescents Learning with Students

PALS trains medical student to provide emotional and professional support to expectant teen mothers and allowing students to experientially learn about the clinical and personal aspects of prenatal health care. Students are paired with a pregnant teenager and accompany the teen to prenatal visits, birthing classes, and the birth.

•Health Outreach Education Program

HOEP, a student-run organization, works in conjunction with the Program for Health Care to Underserved Populations (PHCUP). (PHCUP is part of the Division of Internal Medicine.) Volunteers help provide primary care and health education to homeless and underserved populations at two Pittsburgh-based locations: the **Birmingham Clinic** and the **Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh**. Medical students are an integral part of patient care. HOEP student coordinators organize the schedules and plan educational events. Volunteers can also design and give talks about important health issues at various community sites through **Community Health Action Talks (CHAT!)**.