What is OSR?
‘The Organization of Student Representatives (OSR) fulfills a unique role among medical student organizations. As part of the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC), it provides all United States allopathic medical students with voting representation to the nation’s largest association dedicated solely to the advancement of academic medicine. The OSR provides medical students with an active role in achieving AAMC’s mission to improve the nation’s health through the advancement of academic medicine. Additionally, the OSR seeks to assure that students actively participate in directing their educations, preserving their rights, and delineating their professional responsibilities. To this end, the OSR provides medical students with a voice in academic medicine at the national level and strives to foster student involvement and awareness in this arena at the local level.’

Are your OSR reps involved on a regional and national level?
Yes! Keith Ridel has just been appointed to the national ERAS committee (a committee dealing with the residency application process). Additionally, he has been elected as the Legislative Affairs Delegate for the central region. Heather Heintz has been elected as the Community and Diversity Delegate for the central region.

What have we been doing?
We recently got back from exciting Iowa City, where we attending the Central Region conference. Some of the topics that were discussed follows:

1. Housing Exchange: There is a possibility of an away rotation housing exchange program that involves staying in an apartment vacated by another student while you are staying in that student’s city on your away rotation. A website is being developed that students can visit to check out if there is an opening in the city that they may be rotating. More to come…

2. ‘Building Career Counseling Programs’ website: (http://www.aamc.org/students/cim/). Formerly MedCAREERS, this website is a career planning program designed to help you choose a medical specialty and select and apply to a residency program.

3. Etiquette Dinner: We attended an etiquette luncheon where a trained expert spoke throughout four courses and explained the dos and don’ts of fine dining. We thought that this might be an annual event here at the UCCOM so that interviews for residency and your future job might go very well if it involves a dinner. The current position for the dinner is one day of the pre-3rd year training in July, which is one of the last times that the classes meet.

4. State Budget Cuts: I (Keith) am current writing a mass form letter which is to be sent to the Governors of the Midwest explaining the effects that state budget cuts in education have on medical students. Since this is to have the AAMC/OSR’s backing, it must be approved by them, which takes some time.
5. **STEP IIB:** This topic was again a focus of many of our round table discussions. Nearly all OSR reps were outraged about the cost and validity of the exam. Discussions over boycotts and other methods of protest were discussed, but it was determined that these methods would be ineffective at this time because the NMBE and Federation of State Medical Boards had already voted in favor of implementing the test. The possibility of a letter writing campaign to the individual state federations was discussed and will be presented to other regions. A big concern brought to our attention was that we as students were not informed very well by the NMBE, AAMC, and our individual schools about the logistics of the test (i.e. when we would have to take it, where, how this would work with 4th yr electives, what would the grading system be (pass/fail or # system, etc.). We proposed that the AAMC gather this info and relay it to students **as soon as possible.** Please go to the USMLE website for more info. There will definitely be more info to come!! We will keep you updated!!

6. **Community and Diversity Project:** The Community and Diversity Division of the OSR plans to work on a few things during the upcoming year. One includes getting more OSR reps involved in being a liaison to diversity groups at their schools in order to help promote events, etc. Additionally, a pocket card is being developed to be distributed to all medical students nationwide involving issues with patients who have minimal proficiency in the English language. The card would include hints on how to build rapport with a non-English speaking patient, how to deal with a translator and the family in regards to confidentiality, emergency over the phone translator numbers, etc.

7. **Great websites for info:**
http://www.aamc.org/students/medstudents/start.htm
http://www.aamc.org/members/osr/start.htm
http://www.aamc.org/students/financing/

Thank you and good luck on exams and finals!!

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