

January 2019

# SPRING 2019 NEWSLETTER

 Saint James School of Medicine



**SAINT JAMES**  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
*Your Future. Our Promise.*

## Happy New Year



Here's wishing all the students, faculty and staff a very happy new year!

- from the management team at SJSM.

## Welcome New Spring 2019 Students!



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## SJSM Anguilla Celebrating Christmas

The MD4 students hosted a Christmas holiday party and bake sale to raise funds for their class. Dr. Iliou participated as "Santa Claude" and gave

out the Secret Santa gifts that the students got for each other. The students were very engaged and happy to finish

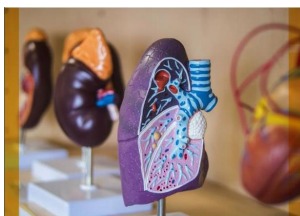
their semester on a fun note with Dr. Iliou being a good sport to participate in the way that he did.



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## 2019 Student Catalog

The new 2019 Student Catalog has been posted on the SJSM website, under the Downloads menu. The Catalog contains several new policies that have been recently approved by the various school bodies. Please take a moment to review the catalog and familiarize yourself with all the new policies and procedures.



2019 STUDENT CATALOG  
ANGUILLA / ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

## SJSM introduces USMLE Counseling

As of January 1st, 2019 students who have two or more unsuccessful NBME attempts will be enrolled in academic counseling at \$50/week which is fully refunded (removed from their bill) once they successfully pass Step 1. This service is run by two counselors (M.D.s) who are recent graduates of medical

school, and who both passed Step 1, 2CK, and 2CS on the first attempt within the last couple of years. This service is completely confidential and private. The counselors work one-on-one with students and use the student's personal NBME scores to help them formulate study plans, develop study schedules,

they can act as a mentor and motivational guide throughout the board exam process, assist the students with picking study resources that are best for them personally, and more. For more information about counseling, please email us at [usmle@mail.sjasm.org](mailto:usmle@mail.sjasm.org) or you can also contact by phone at 1-847-375-9122 or 1-847-375-9172.

## Reduction in the No. of USMLE Certifications Allowed

In an effort to align the school's policies to those of the accreditation requirements, SJSM has recently approved a reduction in the total number of certification attempts for the USMLE

Step I from four to three. This policy goes in effect on January 1st, 2019 and has been published in the new Student Catalog. Students who have already

taken the exam three times have been given a deadline of December 31st, 2019 to qualify for and be certified for the fourth attempt.

## Heartfelt Condolence to Casey MacPherson Pomeroy

It pains us deeply to inform you of the loss of one of our own students Casey MacPherson Pomeroy.

We are saddened by his death and send our condolences to his family and friends.

We have offered them any assistance the school can provide.

## Dean of Administration - St. Vincent Campus

### Dr. Praveen Renumala Appointed as Dean of Administration at SJSM St. Vincent

We are very excited to announce that we have officially appointed Dr Renumala as the Dean of Administration in Saint Vincent.

Dr Renumala has been with the school for 12 years. He is the Course Director for Physical Diagnosis and the chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee.

Dr Renumala has had the experience of being the Secretary of

the Campus Management Committee earlier and is well versed with the administration side/ policies of the school. We would like to wish you best of luck and much success in your new position and congratulations once again!

## SJSM Welcomes New Faculty

Anguilla: We would like to welcome our new faculty members in Anguilla.

Dr. Chebotarov, MD, Ph.D is teaching Neuroscience and RHM 1 as an Associate Professor.

Dr. Chebotarova, MD Biochemistry is teaching Physiology and RHM 3 as an Associate Professor.

Dr. Ahmed, MD Pathology is teaching Pathology as an Associate Professor.

Dr. Wajid, MD Microbiology is teaching Microbiology as an Associate Professor.

St. Vincent: Dr Khanna was transferred from the Anguilla campus. We welcome Dr Khanna back to the SVG campus to teach Anatomy.

## MySJSM – Clinical Coming Soon

We have created a new moodle site called MySJSM – Clinical which will be launched in the coming weeks for all Clinical Science students to contain a more centralized platform for students to access supplemental study materials for each core clerkship and preparation material for Step 2 exams. This new clinical student portal will allow the Administration to update material and announce-

ments more easily which will help communicate in a more effective manner the important news and changes related to Clinical Sciences. Within the portal, the Clinical Department has updated the Pre-clinical orientation webinar, which is required to be completed by all new Clinical Science students. This orientation video is intended to inform students of the policies and expectations

surrounding rotations and activities during Clinical Sciences. Access to this portal and its content will be given upon successful completion of Step 1. Any current Clinical Science student will automatically be entered into the new portal with minimal changes to login credentials. Further announcements will be posted in the current MySJSM portal.



The Library in Saint Vincent will now be open on Sundays from 10 am – 7 pm.

## Student spotlight: Alexander Stirpe



Third-year student Alexander Stirpe was recently accepted by the American College of Physicians to attend their conference and present his case report in an Oral Clinical Vignette competition at the University of Illinois – Chicago. Stirpe represented

Mercy Hospital & Medical Center and Saint James School of Medicine, competing against 28 other hospitals in the region.

He went through an extensive literature review and created a PowerPoint for the presentation

and placed first in the competition. He was the only student-representative from Mercy, which makes this win truly outstanding.

Congratulations Alexander!

## Student spotlight: Joyce Cheng



They say when you know, you know. And Mercy Health Hospital and Trauma Center at Rockford knew they wanted Saint James School of Medicine alum Joyce Cheng to be among its first class of residents in the internal medicine program, so they extended her a pre-match offer.

It is a perfect fit because it was one of her top choices and offers her the opportunity to stay in Illinois, so she can fulfill both her short- and long-term career goals. "In the short-term, my goal is to complete my residency and hopefully become chief resident since we are the first class of residents," Joyce shared.

Her long-term vision is to have her own internal medicine practice focusing on preventative medicine serving diverse communities and underserved populations.

Her pre-match status is the culmination of a lifelong love and dedication to medicine.

"When I was younger, I was attracted to taking science courses and as I grew, I discovered that medicine was a science career that offered constant learning. It involves a lot of technology and there's always something new and exciting to discover," the October 2018 graduate explained.

It's a love that led her to a degree in Biological Science from the University of California at Riverside. After undergrad, she entered into a post-baccalaureate program at Berkeley, worked as a medical transcriber and then on to Saint James.

Her road to SJSM was quick and direct. "I had a family friend who had graduated from Saint James and they said lots of great things about the program," she shared. "I wanted a school that allowed me to practice in the U.S., had a great location and an affordable tuition and that was Saint James."

Congratulations Joyce and best of luck at Mercy Health!