

Virtual Mentor

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Contributors

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Amar D. Bansal is a second-year medical student at New York University (NYU) School of Medicine. He graduated with a degree in bioengineering from the University of Pennsylvania in 2005, where he was involved in tissue engineering research of intervertebral disc cells. Mr. Bansal conducted electrophysiology research on retinal pigment epithelial cells at the National Eye Institute in 2006. He is interested in improving health care access for those in medically underserved communities and is president of the Patient Advocacy Group at NYU.

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Mary Ann Hopkins, MD, is a laparoscopic surgeon at New York University School of Medicine in New York City. She is an assistant professor of surgery, the director of surgical education and curriculum design, and the associate clerkship director for surgery. She has developed self-contained, Web-based surgery teaching modules called WISE-MD, which emphasize professionalism, communication skills and critical decision making.

Adina Kalet, MD, MPH, is an associate professor of medicine at New York University School of Medicine in New York City. She serves as a medical education advisor to the Department of Surgery and as faculty adviser for the Professional Development Committee, a student-led professionalism initiative. Dr. Kalet conducts medical education research on ensuring that competent physicians are prepared to serve as primary care physicians for medically underserved communities. She has published on communication skills, clinical reasoning, computer-based learning and professionalism. And she loves to teach.

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Thomas LeBlanc, MD, MA, is a 2006 graduate of the Duke University School of Medicine in Durham, North Carolina. While at Duke he also earned a master's degree in philosophy, focusing on topics in medical ethics. Dr. LeBlanc recently began his internship in internal medicine at Duke University and has career interests in palliative care, oncology, medical ethics, medical education and literature in medicine.

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Miriam Fishman is a fourth-year medical student at New York University (NYU) School of Medicine and will be starting her residency in internal medicine at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City in July 2007. She has been part of the professional development committee at NYU School of Medicine since her first year. Miriam graduated from Yale University in 2002 with a BA in History.

Alfred Garfall is spending a year doing research in cancer biology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City and will return to New York University School of Medicine in August 2007 as a fourth-year student where he has been involved in developing and implementing the professionalism curriculum. He graduated from Princeton University in 2002 with a degree in molecular biology.

Justin Michael Thomas is a fourth-year medical student at the New York University School of Medicine in New York City, where he has worked with the Professionalism Development Committee to promote commitment to incorporating professional development evaluation in the medical school curriculum. Justin will be pursuing residency training in neurological surgery at State University of New York (SUNY)-Buffalo beginning in July 2007. He graduated from New York University magna cum laude in neural science in 2003.

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