In just five short weeks, The Netter School of Medicine Class of 2019 will be arriving on the North Haven campus for Orientation.

At this writing, the class consists of 94 students (that number could drop slightly, by the matriculation date, as students come off Waitlists at other medical schools). Also, at this writing, we have confirmed MeSH preceptors for 84 students in that class.

In the MeSH (Medical Student Home) Program, each student spends about 20 afternoons in his/her first year, and around 30 afternoons in his/her second year, working in the practice of a Primary Care Physician in Connecticut. The required and requested activities, for the students at those practices, are specific and appropriate for Y1 and Y2 medical students. It has been (no great surprise) the students’ favorite course.

The students in the Class of 2018 will start their second year of MeSH on August 11th. For a variety of reasons, ten of them have been "orphaned", and will not be able to return to their first-year MeSH sites. New MeSH preceptors have been identified, so far, for five of those ten students.

At Quinnipiac, we are now competing, in the State of Connecticut, with Yale, UConn, NY Medical College, the University of Vermont and the Caribbean medical schools for clinical faculty from community practices. Despite the fact that we offer our preceptors generous benefits, and the fact that over 150 physicians, who have already participated in MeSH, have overwhelmingly appreciated and enjoyed the interaction and endorsed the experience, recruiting qualified preceptors has become increasingly difficult.

There is a particular need for pediatricians. So far, in our first two Classes (2017 and 2018) about 25% of the students listed pediatrics as their first choice for the MeSH experience. From the 60 students in the Class of 2017, 14 requested pediatrics, and we had 14 pediatricians signed up (sometimes it’s better to be lucky than good). Of the 90 students in the Class of 2018, 23 wanted a pediatric site, and we had 21 pediatricians available (2 students were assigned to Family Physicians). We anticipate, for the incoming Class of 2019, another 20-25 requests for pediatrics. We would like to be able to accommodate all.

To maintain the MeSH Program, at its current level, I need your help. I need to recruit another 10-15 PCPs, who practice in Connecticut, are Board-Certified in a Primary Care specialty, and willing and able to participate. Ideally, I need at least 5 of those to be pediatricians. Please consider participating. If you are even just curious to hear and learn more, please contact me, and I will visit you, at your office, at your convenience.

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