July 10, 2018

Dear Members of the Class of 2022:

I wish to congratulate you on your acceptance to the SUNY Downstate College of Medicine. Admission to medical school is always a cause for celebration because it represents the opportunity to realize a wonderful and fulfilling career. Downstate is a truly outstanding place to learn medicine. It is an institution with a long and well-recognized commitment to education, to the health of its community, and to the furthering of scientific discovery.

We are very proud of our Integrated Pathways Curriculum. This curriculum integrates learning clinical skills and learning the clinical application of foundational medical knowledge from the very beginning of the year. You will spend this first year beginning to think like a physician and making the transition to becoming an excellent physician. Our curriculum has been designed to ensure that our students acquire the knowledge, skills and competencies necessary for the physician of the future. Surveys of residency directors show that our students are better equipped to address the healthcare needs that face patients in this era. Downstate has over a century and a half of experience as the first institution to educate medical students at the hospital bedside. Today, we have a multitude of clinical sites to train our students, including a full spectrum of hospitals and outpatient practices that care for economically and culturally diverse groups of patients. These environments are important in providing outstanding clinical exposure for our students and resident in training.

You already know that we are affiliated with a variety of clinical sites, including Kings County Hospital, which has one of the busiest emergency rooms in the United States. Downstate Medical Center's University Hospital is fully equipped with the latest technology to deliver the highest level of care to the patients in our various communities. There is no doubt that the illnesses you see during medical school will prepare you for primary care of any specialty that you might choose to enter. Could it be any different, given their wealth of clinical experience?

Our faculty has been recognized for its contributions to science and, as you know, Dr. Robert Furchgott our Nobel Laureate's discovery revolutionized how we think of key basic disease processes. Downstate is also the birthplace of the MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging). The December 22, 2006 issue of Science, named the article by Sacktor and Fenton ("Storage of Spatial Information by the Maintenance Mechanism of LTP"), among the top 10 Breakthroughs in all Sciences in the Year 2006. Obviously, our commitment to science permeates this institution. As we look to the future, a physician must speak a "new language of science," ranging from genetics to the clinical science of "evidence-based" practice.
This commitment to continuous learning, to science-based medicine is infectious: of faculties within all medical schools in the United States, today, SUNY Downstate includes Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Health Related Professions, a School of Graduate Studies, and a School of Public Health, with a total student enrollment of over 1800 students. The College of Medicine has many distinguished alumni, and in 2018 ranked 7th nationally in the number of alumni who hold faculty positions in academic medical centers. So, whether you wish to practice high quality medicine with the latest scientific advances, or whether you yourself wish to make or teach those advances, Downstate has a long and valued heritage in each of these arenas,

You have wisely chosen to pursue your Doctor of Medicine degree at Downstate and look forward to welcoming you to our community

Sincerely,

Carlos N. Pato, M.D.
Dean for College of Medicine