

## 2012 SARAS – Parent feedback

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Dear SARAS administrators,

This is Dr.Seema, parent of SARAS alum Ayyan. I cannot begin to thank you enough for all of your efforts in regards to the program; it has changed my son's life forever. He decided one day to partake in your program, and we were ecstatic about it. We saw this as a great opportunity for Ayyan to hone his skills in the sciences and to gain a better outlook on life, as well as determine what he would like to become professionally. It was quite easy to ascertain by the end of the program that it had done so much more for him. Not only had he accomplished the aforementioned, (I could tell that his knowledge base had significantly increased), but he had become more confident in his interpersonal abilities, his independent thinking, and ultimately I believe discovered the true essence of himself. I have nothing but good things to say about this program, and hopefully it will still be in place when my younger son comes of age. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Sincerely,  
Dr.Seema

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Brandon has told me many things about the program and he has said that it was a wonderful experience and would like to go to Stony Brook once more for simons or independent research. Thank you for the program.

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Dear Srini,

I was very excited for my daughter to participate in this program. My daughter had a great time and learned a great amount. I was very pleased with the program. I love the fact my daughter is certified in lab safety. This was a great opportunity for her because it increased her knowledge and love for science.

Thank you sincerely,  
Denise

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Dr. Srinivas

The SARAS program has indeed been a wonderful experience for my daughter as well as for us. I was happy to note that she had taken such a great interest in the forensics sciences and in [genetic engineering](#); hopefully this will guide her in her decisions about future careers. I look forward to enrolling her programs like SARAS in the future. Thank you so much for this opportunity--and, of course, the food.

With best regards,  
Dinesh & Pratibha

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First off we want to sincerely thank Dr. Srinivas Pentyala and the department of Anesthesia at SUNY StonyBrook for supporting this program which enables junior high and high school students to explore the wonderful world of science, specifically health sciences and the exciting opportunities for career choices and future advancements. Although the program is lecture heavy, given the various grade level students, this was the perfect medium for delivery. Haarika enjoyed the program tremendously and made new friends during the 3 week period. She also appreciated the visit to the Veterans Home and especially liked the prep sessions for SAT prep. We would wholeheartedly recommend this program to all the students entering 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grade interested in life sciences.

Giri and Anuja

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Dear Dr Pentyala,

Thank you for the experience that you have given to my daughter Kayla. She has been exposed to the many opportunities she will have when she chooses her career path in university. It was very obvious that much planning and effort went into this series of lectures and labs. You have created a truly wonderful program, and, shown that the professors and staff at SUNY Stony brook are very dedicated to providing the best in research and education.

Kathy

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Hi Dr Srinivas,

Thank you conducting such a wonderful summer program for the kids. Not only was the program highly motivational and educational but you made it fun for the kids.

We understand it take lot of time, energy and motivation to get so many experts under one roof for so long. It appears not only you have knowledge and vision to get it done but you have a great sense of humor while conducting such programs. We are also very impressed by the CAs who took care of the kids after regular class, in the dorms. They kept them protected really very well. Once again we really appreciate your time and efforts to educate young minds.

Tilak & Babita

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Hi! Thank you for all you guys have done.

Sincerely,

Yang Family.

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We first heard about this program when our friend recommended it to us. We thought it would be a great experience for our daughter, Sherry, who exuberated great interest in the medical field. It would expose her to the different types of medical fields, but also give her a chance to try it for herself with the workshops. After the first week, Sherry seemed more excited about science than we had ever seen her before. She willingly got up at 6am every Monday to trek 2 hours to Stony Brook, when she would normally wake up at 2pm on a hot summer day. Every day, she would call us and tell us all about the lectures and what she learned. We can tell that she learned a lot. Thank

you for all your time and expertise, and for getting her off our back for three weeks. I see a successful doctor in our future thanks to SARAS.

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My wife and I are glad to write this e-mail as our personal feedback to you on our daughter's SARAS camp experience. Overall, it is a great experience for both her and us from the beginning of application to the end of program session. The program is well-organized, delicately planned, and fabulously executed. Everyone including campers, counselors, and parents is happy and enthusiastic with the camp experience. My daughter told me that she enjoys the camp and campers very much. The food and lecturers are all excellent and she learns so much about the medical and biological fields. Also, she proudly shares with us the prize she won for her reflection paper after visiting the veteran hospital.

After the camp, she cannot help talking, continuously and enthusiastically, about the knowledge she learned from different lecturers. She even finds one very interesting research topic that she may take on for future experiment at her high school lab. She makes a lot of friends. Only one small sad drawback we parents can feel is that she cries so hard at the last departure day when she has to say good-bye to her new best-friend campers. Her watery sad eyes reveal a fact that it is a wonderful program and great campers that she enjoys so much in these three weeks. Thank you very much for your efforts to make the program so interesting and inspiring.

Simon and Fang-Chen

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The Science and Research Awareness Series at StonyBrook University was an exceptional experience for my son, Matthew. While Matthew thought that he was interested in a career in the health or biomedical fields, he did not know specifically what he wanted to do. He was not even aware of the possibilities available to him. Through this series of lectures, workshops, and interactions with scientists and medical professionals, he has been better able to define his career objectives. In turn, this has enabled us to proceed with a much more targeted approach to his college search as he enters his senior year of high school. Initially, he thought he wanted to do something in biomedical engineering, but this experience has led him to the conclusion that he would like to be more involved in patient care rather than the research and development end of things. He is very excited to be exploring Physician Assistant programs at this time. It just amazes me how he still lights up and gets so excited when he talks about his experience at SARAS! In his words: "I'm pretty sure that no one else in my class can say that he did a spinal tap this summer!" He was anxious to get up and out every morning to see what the day's adventure was going to be. Even the experience of riding the train and finding his way around a

large (and sometimes confusing) University proved to be a growth experience that has boosted his confidence. From the interesting lectures and hands-on workshops to the positive role models and genuine interactions with the faculty, professionals, staff, and other participants in the program, Matthew had an outstanding experience. I believe that the SARAS Program provided a diversity in cultures and ideas that Matthew just has not been exposed to before. We so appreciate the time that these professionals took out of their busy schedules to share their knowledge and expertise so graciously with the students. Dr. Srinu Pentyala had a wonderful way of motivating and challenging the participants while keeping them engaged and kept the tone light and fun with humor! This experience has given Matthew a level of enthusiasm and confidence that he will carry with him as he begins his college search and beyond. I am convinced that as a result of this program, his enthusiasm and passion for a career in the healthcare field will be evident to college admission counselors and faculty as well. I am very proud to say that while most teenagers were at home on Facebook or lying around a pool or beach this summer, my son expanded his mind, learned a lot about himself and many exciting career options available in the science and healthcare field. Thank you so much for a phenomenal experience!  
Patricia

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Dear Dr. Srinivas,

It was real pleasure meeting you on the first day of the program. I want to thank you for the wonderful program that you put together to help all the kids that participated in this project. Above all I must say Amanda and Ashley really benefitted by attending, even though they had to take a break for four days. I feel that they have grown so much from this experience; this is the first time that they were able to take the train by themselves. Every day they came back and shared their positive experiences including the wonderful food they had each day. I know it takes a lot of energy and time to organize such a wonderful curriculum. I wonder if you have it next year I will be able to attend it, just kidding. The kids have spoken highly about you and your daughter, they are in love with your mustache. Once again thank you and God bless you for reaching out so many kids and giving a direction to their lives. Sincerely,

Agnelo, Ed.D., DSW

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Dear Dr. Srinivas Pentyala:

SARAS was a great experience for my son, Jesse. He seemed to enjoy it. Every day after the class he talked to me about what he learned. I believe that this program generated lots of his interest in science, especially in bio-medical area. He sometimes used what he learned to explain to us some phenomena and occurrence in daily life. Thank you very much for the efforts you put in to make this program so successful. Sincerely,

Aili (Jesse's mother)

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

I remember calling you in March of 2011. Brian was 13 yrs old and won't qualify for the SARAS. I honestly did not know what will be my son's activity for that summer. I made it a point that I will call

you again as soon as my son turned 14. And I did. I asked Brian what he gained from SARAS. Outright, he said that he gained insight into numerous research pathways, a peek into the biomedical science field, while fostering friendships with his co-participants. From time to time during the three weeks, Brian would talk about short anecdotes of some SARAS activities. This is a strange age, where words come very sparse. Yet I am surprised that he would volunteer to relate those anecdotes. I also know that he looked forward to every day there was SARAS. Chronologically, Brian is 14 going on fifteen. Wisdom-wise, emotional-wise, he gained more than three weeks with SARAS. I waited one year for my son to gain entry into this program, and it was well worth the wait. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you and the rest of your staff and all the lecturers and sponsors for this wonderful program.

Aleli

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Mr. Pentyala:

Sorry I did not get back to you earlier. Regarding the SARA program, I thought it was very good. However, from my conversation with Stephanie (everyday we discussed the program for that day) some days were very boring for her as she knew some of the materials already because she did them at school. (Commack High School) Some of the programs she said were very interesting. She learned a lot from the Aging or Cancer topic on the other hand Patient Simulators she did at school. Some of the topics she enjoyed were:

- Genetic Engineering
- Clinical Research
- Clinical Trials
- Idea to Invention
- Insight into sight

Overall, I think the program was very good and she did learn some things and it kept her business instead of being at home doing nothing. Thanks for making this possible and all the hard work and dedication you put in to make this possible.

Amrita

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

I would like to commend you for a very well run and productive SARAS program. My son, Matthew, enjoyed and learned so much from the series. He may have started the program as a venue for getting science research leads but it turned out to be much more than he expected. It was very rewarding to see him eagerly share all the topics he heard as soon as I picked him up at the end of the day and at same time excitedly look forward to what will be presented the next day. Dane especially enjoyed the Ophthalmology and Orthopedics presentations. I was really impressed when he mentioned that they were given a chance to "perform" intubation and a spinal tap on dummies. And of course, how can I not mention about the food especially the cookies. Please know that you have certainly impressed, motivated, enriched and inspired a young man to make medicine/health a career choice. Please do continue with this program. Have a wonderful summer.

Best regards,  
Angela

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I cannot believe that the 3 weeks at SARAS went by so quickly. From what my daughter described, it was great learning experience for her. She said that the program was informative and the lectures were well planned. She feels that she now has a better understanding of her specific interests in the vast field of bio-medical sciences. The knowledge she gained from your program will definitely help her choose her major/career in the coming years. We got a glimpse of your sense of humor through your e-mails and have heard that there was much more of the that all throughout the program. Glad to know that you were able to keep the fun in learning. Thank you, the faculty and staff of Stony Brook Medical Center for creating such a wonderful program.

-Anita

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We were so happy to see how much fun our son, Josh, had on his SARAS experience along with how much he learned. At first we asked him why he was so sad to be home and he answered that he wished it could be a longer program. It was definitely one of his most interesting Summer experiences. Thank you for hosting this program Dr. Pentyala  
David and Marina

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Dearest Dr. Pentyala,

What a wonderful three weeks for our son. He had so many memorable and valuable experiences at the SARAS conference. Upon his completion of the program, he verbalized a strong desire to begin some form of research. Many thanks to the professor that so graciously gave her time to speak with the SARAS group, and more importantly inspired our son to work toward this direction.

We were very pleased with the entire program and are so grateful to have been able to expose our son to so many fields of science.

Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell

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My son Anthony, at first, was looking for something to do with his buddies over at the hospital, and SARAS looked like the perfect program! Both he and I didn't know what he would get out of it, but I told him to keep an open mind and to think of all the things he could possibly be learning about. After the three weeks of going to the SARAS program, I can definitely say that he enjoyed his time with the program this summer. It seems to me, after speaking with him about the lectures, that he is more definite with what he wants to do with his future and has come up with many plans! Thank you for this opportunity!

Sincerely,

Denise

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Dear Dr.Srini :

Writing to say a big Thank You for organizing this wonderful program for our kids. Even tho' it took a bit of coaxing initially, the kids warmed up to the program and by the last day were actually feeling bad that they have no more SARAS to go to. All areas of Medicine and Research were covered beautifully. The highlight of course was lunch!! Sumptuous meals every day, were enjoyed by all. My daughter Saumya, who was not in the least bit interested in medicine, is now actually asking her surgeon dad the pros and cons of becoming an Anesthesiologist! Thoroughly enjoyed the lumbar puncture exercise. This change of mind set alone, made the program worthwhile for us parents. Thank you again. Enjoy the rest of the summer. Regards,

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Dear Mr. Pentyala,

My son, Austin, had a fantastic experience during SARAS. He felt that these sessions were very informative and had some hands on experience. The experts were really good and he learned many new things about the medical field. Thank you for giving Austin such a valuable opportunity.

Sincerely,  
Shoba

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Dear Dr Srinivas

My name is Dr Ahmed, I am family physician,father of Moez Ahmed who participated in SARAS, Thank you for having him, As per Moez, he was given exposure of different aspects of medical , social and sciences, he was taught ethic of medical science He attended the lectures of different expertise, he enjoyed the wonderful lunches

Ahmed M.D

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

We would like to convey our gratitude and appreciation for organizing such a wonderful science camp as SARAS. We registered our daughter for this program after receiving positive feedback from many of our friends whose children had attended this series in past years. The program certainly lived up to our expectation. Rhea returned each day excitedly recounting the events, lectures, presentations and even the lunch break! She not only learned about the different medical specialties and the research being conducted, she also made some good friends. On the last day she said that she could have done this for the entire summer if that was an option. This a testament to the hard work put in by you and your colleagues in making the series a fun learning experience. Congratulations to you and our team.

Regards,  
Dr. and Mrs. Nagpal

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I am happy that you offer the SARAS program for students. Although my son couldn't attend all the sessions, I feel it was valuable for him to be exposed to different ideas and fields of medicine. Thank you.....Carol

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My son, Kenny enjoyed this experience. Dr. Pentyala, thank you for giving my son the opportunity to attend the SARAS program at Stony Brook University. He very much enjoyed the experience of lecture and college life. My son had so much fun that he wished that it was longer than 3 weeks. Once again, thank you very much, enjoy the rest of your summer.  
Sergio

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Dr.Pentyala,

Thank you for accepting Soumya into the SARAS program. SARAS is a program I will definitely recommend to my friends as well. Soumya has a better appreciation for all the fields in medicine and research. She benefited a lot from this program, and wants to

pursue a career in medicine. SARAS made her broaden her perspective on different career options. She constantly tells me about your research regarding epidurals, which I find very fascinating.

Thank you,  
Mythily

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Hi Dr Pentyala,

Thank you for a wonderful program. Our daughter, Amanda really enjoyed the program as a whole. It helped her become more independent and opened her eyes to the many other possibilities in the area of science. More workshops would be helpful--she really enjoyed the hands-on classes the most. Once again thank you for this great program.

sincerely,  
Dr & Mrs David

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Hello Dr. Pentyala,

My son, Christopher, attended SARAS this summer. I would like to thank you for a wonderful program. Everyday Chris had so much to share with us about the different professionals lecturing and sharing their expertise. This program has given him a great foundation to aid him in choosing a major when he goes to college.

Thank you again for your dedication.

Sincerely,  
Dawn

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Dear Srinii

Nicholas enjoyed his 3 weeks of lectures. A lot of time and energy is devoted by so many physicians and professors every year for this course. It is a wonderful opportunity for these students to have such exposure to such a variety of disciplines in the medical and science fields.

Thank you for your continued efforts, they are appreciated by many.

Warm regards,  
Debra

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I was very happy with your program. I feel my son, David learned a lot. I was very impressed with your program when David's older brother, Eric, attended two years ago and I am again impressed by it. My son, Eric was now accepted to the Brooklyn BA/MD program and 4 out of the 15 accepted in his class attended SARAS. I can't wait until their younger siblings attend your program.

Debra

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Dear Srinii,

I apologize for being so tardy in giving you my reflections of SARAS 2012.

It was simply stupendous. I commend all involved for keeping the interest of a varied group of kids for 3 weeks! Lemon, who attends a performing arts school in Manhattan, had the opportunity to consider careers in science that she never knew existed.

I have to wonder why there aren't more SARAS-type programs for pre-college students. It is a pity that so much of their time is spent in test prep and college searches, rather than spending some time to take a look at where you want to be when college days are over. Since SARAS 2012, Lemon has met friends for SARAS reunions in the city. I know she would agree that these three weeks were truly life-



changing because she is considering an adult role that was outside her imagination till SARAS (respiratory, occupational or physical therapy; maybe nutrition).

Thank you, thank you!

Diana (mother)

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Dr. Pentyala,

Thank you for all the time and effort you and everyone involved spent to make the SARAS program a success. I'm sure it was a huge undertaking. The provided lunch was an added bonus. I confess that I used the day's lunch to entice my son out of bed on a few mornings. I am thankful to have learned about the program and to have my son Frank participate. It might have been a little too advanced for him as he has only completed 9th grade and hasn't been exposed to all the sciences yet. Given that, it was an amazing experience for him. He learned so much information and was exposed to such influential people. It was a priceless experience. He was most interested in Genetic Engineering. I was wondering what the academic track would be if he chose to follow that interest. If you could give me any guidance, I would very much appreciate it. Thank you again for a wonderful program.

Donna

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Dr. Pentyala,

My son Shehryar really enjoyed the SARAS program. It was nice to hear about the things he would learn daily. This was a great program, and I hope you continue to have success in the future with the program.

Thank you and Best Regards

Fakhra (Mother of Shehryar)

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I am very pleased with my sons participation in the SARAS program. the opportunity to hear lectures from doctors from different fields was educational and interesting for him. Fyotsi's mom

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Of course, I have provided my impressions earlier in the summer, but for the most part I think it was a terrific program and that Sam took more from it than he even realizes.

Given that it's summer, and notwithstanding the "learning nature" of the program, as you know, we hoped there would be more really active hands-on workshops, and there definitely seemed to have been more in the third week. But all in all, especially given the affordable cost, a tremendous program and effort I would recommend. And, parentally, I truly enjoyed your emails each day giving us information. And your responsiveness was GREATLY appreciated. Thanks for all.

Gae (Sam's mom)

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Dr. Pentyala,

My wife and I would like to thank you and your staff for providing our son Matthew with a wonderful and educational Summer experience. Your level of enthusiasm and encouragement of the students is second to none, and I know that this, along with a lot of planning and hard work on your part, made the program so successful. Each day Matthew would come home and share his experience with us. The participant "assignments" were a great way of keeping the kids engaged. Although Matthew is only entering 11<sup>th</sup> grade, he "matured" over the last three weeks by virtue of his participation in your program and exposure to ideas, issues, and occupations, as well as being in a hospital and college lecture hall setting. When I would see him leave each day for Stony Brook with the student ID

badge proudly hanging from his neck, I envisioned him walking with a stethoscope draped around his neck a few years from now. I would highly recommend your program for students like Matthew who are considering a career in medicine. The data which you provided on colleges offering eight year BA/MD programs was also helpful. Our thanks and appreciation to you and your staff.

Regards,  
Gary

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I am Peter's mother. Thank you for letting my son to have wonderful summer experience. I think he enjoyed and learned about new idea of never in his mind. My son said he met a lot of people became his friends and got good stimulation for what he is going to do. I hope he keeps in his mind what had learned in SARAS program. I really have to say thank you for sending me daily update e-mail during program that was helpful for what was going on during my son was in Dorm.

Thank you again and hope to see you next year!

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Srini,

I like your enthusiasm with the kids via your emails. I thought your program was well thought out with the itinerary showing the kids what to expect during the days. It seemed to have positively influenced Billy about the science and research happening in various medical fields. Kids often don't get that kind of extensive knowledge if it wasn't for a program like yours. It's great the hospital staff participates to the degree they do; I'm sure they find joy with sharing their knowledge with the kids. Billy is glad he took the time to complete the program. Thanks for giving him this experience.

Chris

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Dear Dr. Pentyala:

Our daughter, Sara, thoroughly enjoyed the program. We were quite impressed with the different daily lectures presented by the specialists on staff at Stony Brook. It is a program that I would recommend to any high school student that has any interest not only in possible medicine, but any field of science or research. We thank you for your efforts. It seems like you enjoyed presenting the program and working with the students. Thank you so much.

Howard and Felicia

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Dear Dr. Srinivas Pentyala,

It is in utmost pleasure that I write to you about my daughter, Ramshas, experience at SARAS. She was looking for a summer program where she could learn about the field of medicine and sciences. She was lucky to apply to your program. It was a great opportunity for her to learn about this field. Everyday, I would see a smile on her face; telling me what she had done during the course of the day. Whether it was discussing transitional, and clinical research, forensics, or just talking personally to the people who work behind the

scenes conducting blood work, and saving peoples lives daily. She took great interest in the fields of medicine discussed, as well as the elaborate side of research and the amount of perseverance, hard work, and dedication shown in advancing the health care system.

Ramsha enjoyed your jokes and the delicious lunch. I am very thankful that she took this opportunity and that it gave her insight into what the field of medicine is truly about. I hope that this will help her in her interests in research in the coming years, and possibly even at Stony brook, as she belongs to a family of doctors who inspire her into going into the field of medicine. Thank you.

Humaira ( Mother of Ramsha )

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Dear Dr. Srini,

On behalf of Evan, thank you very much for a wonderful program. Evan is into medical sciences very much, your program is an eye opener for him about what you can do in the field. He enjoyed the most is the hands-on workshops. He learned a lot, he doesn't have a clear goal for himself before, But after attending your program, he has his goal set for medical school. He also like to volunteer at the veteran home next school year going into 10th grade. I am extremely happy that he got all these positive things out of your program. I heard that you will retire from running this program next year. but I hope that the program can keep going, so in another 4 years, I can send his younger brother Jason to the program, he is going to 6th grade next school year, said he likes to be a surgeon. Thanks again, please keep the program going, keep the youngsters dream alive.

Evan's mom

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Hi Srini,

I thought this program was excellent!!!! It was exactly what my son was looking for and has turned into more than just a summer program. He enjoyed talking about it during all the car trips with his friends (I think he was more enthusiastic than them, however, they did engage him most of the time). He was sorry that he missed some of the days for either a Dr appointment or he was sick. Thank you for all of effort,

Jennifer

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My daughter Olivia, had the opportunity to participate in this years' summer science program. Most of the lectures she found interesting but a few were too advanced. Perhaps having 2 level tracks for 9th

and 10th graders and 11th and beyond would allow the younger children to be engaged in a more age appropriate way. She was exposed to areas in science that she knew very little about and it piqued her interest, especially genetic science. She stayed on campus, her first time living without family and that was a huge adjustment. Overall the experience was a great learning one both academically and personally for Olivia. I would highly recommend it to others with an interest in science. The small contribution to attend was well worth it! Thanks for your commitment to our future, which are the youth.

Jennifer

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Hello Dr.Srinivas,

My name is Mandy and my daughter is Meilan. She had a great time and really enjoyed the program. She learned a lot and shared all the new information with me. She did not know there were so many fields of science. The veteran's home was a great experience for her and she absolutely loved it. She is only 14 and she really enjoyed the college experience. She had to leave for sleep away camp and had to miss the last day. She knew this going in, but was quite disappointed not to be able to finish. She is not able to e-mail at camp, but will e-mail when she comes back. Thank you again and keep up the great work. Sincerely,  
mandy

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Before my daughter went to SARAS, she has no idea what she's going to take for college. She likes the program so much that after it was finished she missed it already. She learned a lot of things and made many friends. She also enjoys the games they played in the dorm. She was touched when she saw how the elderly way of living and seeing how their health is. That's where she made a decision that she wants to become a Gerontologist. By being a Gerontologist, she can help elderly patients to feel well, how to stay healthy so they can live longer. By attending the SARAS program, it helps open my daughter's mind and seeing clearly the world of reality.

Josephine

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Dr. Pentyala, Thank you for putting together this program and for your informative and entertaining emails. I want to tell you that I would ask Ian and his friends that I drove home about their day at SARAS, and they would comment- it was all right, some lectures were long or some topics were not interesting. At this point on the ride home, I would drive quietly and listen to Ian, Frank and Kayla. To my surprise they would talk amongst themselves about the different topics, -What did you think about Sim man, the sleep discussion, urology and so on. Each day they there were topics that interested them and each day they learned something new. There were a few days that I was not able to get them there, due to my work schedule and I feel bad that they missed out. This kind of program is so valuable and I really appreciate the efforts of you and all the speakers. Be Well and Have a wonderful summer!

Mary

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I'm so glad Dennis had the opportunity to participate in SARAS. He will now have valuable insight, knowledge and experience in what the Medical community is all about. Taking care of people is a necessary and requires extensive training for our bright young minds of tomorrow. Thank you, - Katherine.

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Dear Dr Pentyala,

Thank you for the experience that you have given to my daughter Kayla. She has been exposed to the many opportunities she will have when she chooses her career path in university. It was very obvious that much planning and effort went into this series of lectures and labs. You have created a truly wonderful program, and, shown that the professors and staff at SUNY Stony brook are very dedicated to providing the best in research and education.

Kathy  
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Dr. Srinivas,

My daughter, Kendall participated in SARAS this year and it was a wonderful experience for her. Everyday she came home and informed us of the exciting things she learned at Stony Brook. I believe this experience has broadened her perception of the medical field and confirmed her decision to pursue a career in medicine in the future. Thank you for making this opportunity available to her.

Sincerely,  
Bonnie  
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Dear Dr. Pentyala

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for creating a memorable summer for my son. Your program was enthusiastic, informative and enlightening, not only for my son but for myself as well. The speakers touched on so many aspects of the both the medical and science professions. My son was especially intrigued by the laboratory. I think his favorite session was the lab certification. He also enjoyed the session that dealt with neurology. Lastly he told me that the Test Takers SAT presentation was very helpful and the lunches of course were fun! I think that this whole summer experience was very beneficial in that he made some decisions as to what he would really like to concentrate on studying in the future. The two of us together had a chance to discuss the topics on our long ride home to Jericho each afternoon. Of course, some of the speakers weren't as dynamic as others but the whole volume of information was invaluable to a young person starting out. Thank you so much.

Mary Jean  
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Thank you to all the hardworking and dedicated people at Stony Brook for organizing the SARAS 2012 program this summer. Our daughter enjoyed the program very much, and she continues to talk about the experience at home. The program allowed my daughter and us to see the many opportunities and fields in science and it educated us on different aspects of the college experience, admissions and programs. The entire program was also an excellent balance of excitement and academics; it definitely kept our daughter interested and eager for each new day! We are all very satisfied with the SARAS program and the way in which it has been carried out. I wish this program the best of luck and hope that it will continue in the years to come.

Kushal  
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Hello Dr. Srinivas. My name is Kwan. My daughter, Donna, had previously attended your SARAS program a couple of years ago. Now she is currently attending Harvard in her junior year. She really liked the program and my son thought that it sounded fun and wanted to go to the program also. My son, Henry, has come home for the past three weeks talking about the program and what he had done that day. It was obvious that he was very interested in the program. He also said that he enjoyed the food provided during lunch. He said he liked the food eating contests also. He really loved the program and he told me he wants to do some kind of science research in the future. Would you be able to recommend any good science research programs for my son who will be going into tenth grade this year? Thank you for providing this opportunity for my son and others.

Kwan

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Hi Dr. Pentyala,

I would like to share my reflections on my daughter Katie's participation in the SARAS program:

When we heard about the SARAS program a few months ago, we were so excited and couldn't wait for Katie to go.

It is definitely a great program for raising science awareness among the students. It is a good introduction to the different fields of science and helps them think about what they want to study and do in the future. It's amazing how they were able to fit so many topics and speakers throughout the program.

I recommend students interested in science to go for the SARAS program!

Thanks,

Lisa

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Dear Dr. Pentyala:

My son understood how research is done and how much effort it requires. Manyu thoroughly enjoyed and was inspired to pursue research. One thing that he liked the best: Ability to be able to converse with people who had done this for years. One thing he feels would make it better: More hands on experience. Overall this was a great initiating experience!.

Lokesh, MD.

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Dr. Srini,

My son greatly enjoyed attending SARAS and had positive comments about it everyday. He liked all the topics that were discussed, and was in awe of the medical world. He said his favorite was ophthalmology and the video shown on eye surgery. He learned a lot from the expert doctors who gave the lectures as well as his fellow students that attended the program. He said he wished he could have spent all his previous summer vacations attending SARAS. I congratulate you and all your fellow doctors who motivate young students and introduce them to the world of medicine. SARAS is definitely a good influence as well as a great encouragement to pursue a career in medicine. Thank you once again and I hope that SARAS will continue so that more students will benefit from this program and be motivated to become future doctors.

Carmen

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

I'm writing to you on behalf of my son, Samuel, who was a participant of the SARAS 2012 program. I would like to thank you and all the educators involved for giving this opportunity to young people to introduce them to the world of medicine. I think, Sam came out of this program with much better understanding of what kind of hard work is involved in becoming a doctor. This was like a trying out

period for him if that's what he really wants to do. I also liked that he met lots of like-minded people with whom he forged, hopefully, lifelong friendships. Sam had to live on his own, which was also a very positive experience for his maturing. Overall, I was very happy of Sam's feedback to me about his experience with the program.

Sincerely, Marina

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Dear Dr. Srini,

When I spoke to Kenny about attending the SARAS program back in February, he was interested, and thought he would like it. So, I registered him into the program.

After all of his finals at the end of the school year (he is entering 10th grade in the fall), he started to question whether or not he really wanted to spend 3 weeks of his summer in the SARAS program. He had it in his mind that it would be just like attending school, and he started to complain about it. After listening to his whining for a while, I told him that if he tried it for the first 4 days (Tues - Fri) and decided that he didn't like it, then he wouldn't have to return. He agreed. After the first day, he forgot all about our agreement, and he was very excited about the program! He liked hearing about the different areas of research, the tricks to know for the SAT, the lab safety guidelines, and the lunches. He especially appreciated your humor and wit throughout the whole program. It was a very positive, engaging experience for him, and I am so happy that the opportunity was provided by you and your colleagues through SBU.

Michele

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Dr. Pentyala, I apologize for my delayed response as we were away. Kudos to you and all involved for putting together a truly inspiring program for young students. We were referred to SARAS from a prior student who spoke very positively about the series. However the program far surpassed expectations in terms of the stimulating, varied topics covered. Unlike most days that I would pick up my son from school the commute home from SARAS was filled with an exciting recap of the day's topics. My son could often not refrain from looking ahead with excitement to the following day's schedule. I hope you recognize what an inspiration you are to the countless students who have been fortunate to participate in your program. With sincerest appreciation, P.S. Not only did you satisfy intellectual appetites my son also raved about the daily lunches served!

Christopher (Nicholas's father)

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Dr. Srini,

Whatever I say about this program might not be enough compared to how much I appreciate how much effort you and your staff put in to make this program a huge success!. Your emails and daily feedback kept us parents and the students abreast on most of SARAS happenings and activities. You truly cared and acted as our eyes and ears, watching their comings and goings and I truly appreciate it.

I asked Brandon to tell me a few things (positive or negative ) about the program and here is a summary of what he said:

1. He enjoyed different doctors giving various lectures and according to him most lectures were quite informative and interesting, however he thought some of the research-oriented lectures were too advanced for his understanding.
2. Being in the University Dorm environment had a really positive impact on him- making him look forward into college housing. He made good friends with a group of like-minded boys and girls that were serious about getting into med school as well as living healthy teenager social lives combined with good ethics and sportsmanship. They played volleyball every day after dinner, went to gym and ended the night with playing cards in groups.
3. He thought the staff was really nice, helpful and friendly.

4. He is seriously considering getting into medical field.

So Kudos to you, Dr. Srini for planting a seed in the fertile minds of our younger generation, reiterating and demonstrating that science can be fun and exciting and need not be a boring or scary subject.

With much appreciation and best regards,

*Nazanin*

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Hello Mr. Penyala,

Daniel had a great time learning from the Saras program. He learned more about health, medical and business related topics. This also gives him a sense of what college would be like. In addition he learned how to use the train and how to commute to Stony Brook. He also saw you as a good mentor since you were kind, funny, and also taught him new things. Thank you for everything and all you have done.

Nastaran

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I am writing to share my impression of SARAS2012 as the parent of Patrick. When I first spoke to Dr. Kevin about the SARAS program for my son, I was convinced that it would be a great experience for him on a number of levels. Kevin was the catalyst for this great exposure for Patrick and we are truly grateful to him and the whole SARAS staff for taking great care of our son on his first lengthy stay away from home. The program met our expectations and then some. It gave our son the opportunity to interact and socialize with many of his peers of like mind while sharing their experiences and cultural background which is an education in and of itself. And the, there was the exposure to the various aspects of the medical field and all the different disciplines. I know his eyes were opened, as we wished, and he's now more motivated to strive for excellence in his school work so that he can achieve his goal of becoming an Anesthesiologist. He seems pretty sure he likes the field. SARAS must have done the job! The great diversity of the program speaks volumes for the benefits students from varied backgrounds can derive from programs such as SARAS. My wife and I are also from the medical field, a nurse and a researcher and public health specialist, and we truly believe that your program will make a significant impact on my son's continued growth and curiosity in the field of science. He also said it was lots of fun. Let me also say a big thank you for Dr. Kevin's mentorship of our son as well as other students in the program. He exposed them to many dimensions of life through the mini trips into the City which is priceless. His continued involvement and motivation shows how selfless he is at sharing his blessings with others. This feature is an added bonus for the program and gives parents much confidence to know that there are such dedicated persons who are committed to the great mantra of medicine which is to help others. Thank you very much Dr. Penyala for your leadership of this most important program. Your easy going style was important in putting our son at ease and we appreciate it. If there's anything we can do to help spread the word about SARAS, please let us know and we'll do it to the best of our ability. We really think it's well worth the effort. With regards sincerely,

Patrick Sr. and Angella



Hi Dr. Pentyala,

Our daughter Sahi has thoroughly enjoyed the program. She has provided feedback to us every day during dinner time. SARAS has provided an excellent opportunity for her to be aware of different possibilities. She liked most of the lectures including the SAT training provided. I would like to sincerely thank you for organizing such a great program and exposing the kids to a variety of interesting topics.

Ravi

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Dear Dr. Pentyala:

Thank you for putting together such a wonderful program for our children. My son Rickie is enthralled with your speakers and the program in general. My wife and I can see in him the excitement and enthusiasm he possesses when going to your classes. We cannot thank you enough for your efforts... We truly feel you are changing the lives and ideas of these children. Thank you again;

Anthony, D.C., C.C.S.P.

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Dear Dr.Pentyala,

Positive :

1. My son enjoyed the SARAS program. Every day he spoke of the interesting lectures.
2. He seemed to have a good time, because he never complained (boring), especially for a student who is not interested in becoming a physician. SARAS might have changed his mindset.
3. Although he is vegetarian, food was never an issue. He loved the lunches that were provided.

Negative:

1. The Program timings were not compatible with the train schedule (mornings).

My son won the prize for the "COMEDY STORY". Is it possible to get a copy of his story?

Best Regards

Shanthi

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Thank you for hosting my son Michael in the 2012 SARAS. Your time, effort and preparation are truly appreciated. My eldest son Joseph also attended SARAS - I believe in 2009 - he is currently a sophomore at Stony Brook, living on campus and doing well in his pre med studies.

Russ, M.D.

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

My daughter and her friends enjoyed the SARAS program immensely. The three weeks flew by. The kids appreciated your sense of humor and it is obvious that you enjoy what you are doing. It's wonderful that today there are so many opportunities for students to foray into areas of interest prior to having to make the big decision as to what to do with their lives. The series

served to spark their interest in science, research, and the medical field. We are grateful for the opportunity that the program offered them.

Renee

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Hi Srini,

Sorry for the delayed response. Though Eric missed some sessions due to conflict, he thought the SARAS program was great overall- speakers, topics, organization, food. The program sparked many interesting dinner conversations! Would not a change a thing from parent perspective.

Was the clinical skills workshop well received this year? It was a bit challenging with less teachers, but it seemed to go well anyway. The OR was very busy this summer with some unexpected faculty absences which made clinical coverage even tighter...

Best,

Joy

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Dear Dr. Pentyala:

I really cannot thank you enough for the SARAS program!!!

I appreciate all that you have done for the students of this exceptional program.

My daughter, Kavita has become even more inspired and passionate about what she wants to be, after SARAS.

She has become even more fascinated with Science!

She also was so inspired by the visit to the Veterans home.

I really can't express how grateful I am!

From day one my daughter came home so excited about the program. She hopes she can accomplish even a fraction of what the guest speakers did. Furthermore she is in awe of you as well!

She is so inspired from the SARAS program.

Kavita got some SAT advice from it. The entire program was very impressive!

I have seen my daughter mature a little more, which was nice as well from the program. (taking train, getting up early in summer, being more appreciative, etc.) Hope Kavita can continue with SARAS in some way, such as assisting in research. She has become even more passionate about research after participating in SARAS. Again, I cannot thank you enough for creating this program.

Sejal

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

I appreciate your time and hard work for organizing the great series of seminars.

In the beginning, I doubted if my son, Allen, would like these seminars. In spite of more than 3 hours of commute time, Allen said he liked seminars very much because so many interesting topics were presented by great speakers with very personal touches. Also, I just found myself though the pictures you linked that kids were integral part of seminars not just sitting and listening. I firmly believe that Allen learned and experienced many new knowledge, technology, and trends he had never thought about it. The time was so precious and will be remembered for his life.

Appreciate all your efforts, again. Best Regards,

Seokho (Allen's father)

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

My husband and I cannot thank you enough for the experience our son Rohan has had at the SARAS conference. Not only was it an insight for him into the realm of science and technology giving him an edge over his peers at school of the possibilities that lie ahead. He realized that only thorough hard work and perseverance can he achieve whatever his heart desires. Rohan was particularly interested in the Genetic Engineering and Orthopedic sessions. He is looking to further explore these possibilities in his junior year. Hand-in-hand with the educational aspect went the experience of living on an actual college campus and the responsibilities that went along with the privilege. Rohan seems to have matured some during the three short weeks. My husband and I did appreciate your witty emails every evening and the interaction we felt Rohan was having with not only the other kids but the staff and faculty as well. The list of colleges offering the 7 - 8 years of Med school is particularly helpful. We hope to further this relationship with Stony Brook come next summer. Thanking you

Sincerely,  
Sharmista

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Dear Srinivas,

Thank you very much for your email. I cannot express how lucky Jacob and I feel about having had the chance to participate in a great program like SARAS. Jacob came back home every Friday and talked to me and my husband about all the things he had learned that week - from respiratory care, heart defibrillation, epidurals, and ocular sciences to sleeping cycles to name just a few. Jacob found the camp to include and cover such a broad range of topics in the time given and was exposed to facts ideas and thoughts that he would otherwise never have. His time away from home to devote himself entirely to learning and discovering, I felt, was tremendously valuable as well. My hope is for Jacob to be a part of SARAS next summer again, as does Jacob. Thank you again for this opportunity and hope to work with you again.

Best,  
Soo

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My daughter, Yuna, seemed to have enjoyed the SARAS program. She would come home everyday and without us asking, tell us something very interesting she learned that day. It was a great opportunity for Yuna to attend this program and learn with other students who had similar motivations to succeed. And we must not forget how great the lunches were everyday. She especially loved the Indian food on the last day. Because of the positive feedback I got from Yuna, we are thinking about sending our son next summer. Thank you so much for organizing such a great program! We hope you have a happy rest of your summer!

Sincerely,  
Suhyun and Benjamin

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

We are extremely pleased that our daughter Manasa attended SARAS this summer. She enjoyed the lectures very much and she became even more interested in Science than before. She is most likely going to pursue her studies in Science. She equally enjoyed the delicious lunches that were served every day! Thanks to all the sponsors. We would like to thank you for providing the children an excellent opportunity to participate in this great program!

Sincerely,  
Sunitha & Prakash

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Dear Srin,

We would like to thank you for having such a program. Our daughter was reluctant to attend, but quickly learned that she was indeed very interested in the subject matter. We couldn't wait to find out what took place each day. She came home with enthusiasm to talk of the experience of the day.

From this series, she came to find she is very interested in becoming an anesthesiologist. Until SARAS, she didn't know what field of medicine to study. Again, we thank you and the many speakers present at SARAS 2012.

God's blessings,  
Rod and Michelle

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

First and foremost we want to thank Stony Brook University, all the expert speakers, the caterers, and you in particular for offering this incredible experience for our daughter Karolynn. She learned so much about all aspects of science in particular clinical research, anesthesiology, and forensics. The clinical labs and undergraduate programs were of much interest to Karolynn. This will give her a basic idea as to where she wants to lead her studies and career. Having Karolynn away from home is also another experience for us as a family. We know what to expect when she goes away to College. We naturally missed her so much, but were confident that she was in good hands with your program. We know that you had very strict guidelines and that made us feel at ease. She also made a few friends that I'm sure will continue to communicate with her. You made yourself available both, personally on the phone and through e-mails, that we felt we had great connection with the program. Again, we thank you for all your guidance and support and hope to continue to communicate with you at some level to guide our daughter in her future endeavors. With much regards and respect,

Alida and Walter

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

Based on the comments from my son Bill, it sounds like a well run program. It open Bill's mind to the possibility of a variety of fascinating future careers. It also gave Bill the opportunity to think about the areas where he could focus his research during the upcoming school year. Thank you for providing the wonderful lunches. He really enjoy them.

Wenhui

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Thank you, Dr Pentyala for giving my son, Jeremy, a wonderful and unforgettable experience. It was a fun, hands-on learning experience for him, making it all worthwhile getting up extra early commuting back and forth on the LIRR train everyday for 3 weeks. Your humorous daily email updates were great and gave us the source of topic discussions when he comes home everyday. Before attending SARAS, he had expressed an interest on a career in the medical field so this was a great opportunity for him to experience different types of professions firsthand from the experts. He was impressed with the interesting speakers and lectures, and of course, the delicious lunch daily. The Lunch-and-Learn visit to the LI Veterans' Home genuinely touched him, leaving a good, lasting impression. Wishing you continued success with SARAS. Regards,  
Kathy

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Good afternoon,

My daughter had a great learning experience by attending the SARAS program. This program gave my daughter a better understanding of the medical field. I recommend the SARAS program for any one who's interested in studying medicine. My daughter wants to become an Anesthesiologist and she was able to speak and ask different questions to doctors about this field and others. I'm very happy that my daughter was able attend this excellent program. thank you!  
Pena

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Dear Dr. Srini,

For the past 3 weeks, Gary has been very absorbed in his activities at SARAS. He has certainly taken upon himself the task of learning as much as possible from this program, which he has repeatedly said was "beyond cool". I noticed that he seems to talk about it a lot and looked forward to it every day, so he is disappointed that it is finally over. However, I am very satisfied with the program and will certainly recommend it to others. Thanks so much!

Regards,  
Yanfang and Jiuyuan (Gary 's parents)

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