

2014 SARAS – STUDENTS FEEDBACK

I am very happy that I was able to take part of the SARAS 2014. Overall, I think the program is fantastic and the coordination of all the activities, labs, and expert speeches were excellent. I learned a lot from this program and I feel that this is a great way to learn about what each type of specialist does on a daily basis. It is a great program to learn about how further research could be done to make the world a healthier place. I don't think participating in this program was a waste of time during the summer but I do feel that the experts inspired me to take part in further research regarding health and medicine. I would definitely recommend this program to others to join SARAS in the future.

-Aarthi

Overall, the SARAS program was pretty interesting. I learned a lot regarding medicine and the different programs at Stony Brook. The trip to the Veteran's Home was also interesting. I got to speak to a Vietnam veteran. We got to go to a lab, and work with E-coli. We also got to see through the microscopes and observe different blood cells. In addition, we also got to see the ultrasound, the human models with the voice and simulations. Overall, the experience was good, and the lunches were good too. The food, lab, and different experiences throughout Stony Brook made the program worthwhile.

Adam

Overall SARAS was a great experience and I'm glad I joined instead of sitting at home and watching tv every day. It was very inspiring to hear different experts talk about their jobs and now when people ask me what I want to be, I actually have an answer. The diversity of the lectures was the best part of the program and now I know about so many different jobs. Also, you should give more talks because when you introduced us to "Srini's Dipstick" it was very interesting and I loved hearing what you had to say because you were always funny. Thanks for making 3 weeks of my summer both fun and educational and I will definitely be recommending others to join this program!

-Adora

When I was first faced with the reality of attending SARAS program, I was skeptic on what the program would offer. I was almost fearful of what the program entailed and if the lectures would be overwhelming with information. The underlining problem was the internal struggle I faced, what do I want to do with my life? I immediately realized SARAS would help ease my worries and find a solution to my problem. From the first speech Dr Pentayla presented, I knew this program would have an impact on my life and help give my future direction. I was not disappointed, but in fact inspired, as if the program would shape my future endeavors towards a career path. The lectures from the experts in different medical fields were educational and gave interesting insights to their career devotions. The experts informed the SARAS students what it took to get where they are today: the schools they attended, their educational path and why they chose their field. They even gave advice to young bright minds; minds that will have an impact on the world and future medicine. The most important advice I received from the experts was "do what makes you happy in life and everything else will fall into place. It is not a job if you enjoy getting up every morning to do something your passionate about and love." The experts who sparked my interest included Maxillofacial Surgeon and Ophthalmologist. These Doctors felt passionate about their career and the impact they had on their patients. In addition to the lectures by the experts, there were many interesting and interactive workshops. These workshops gave the SARAS students hands on knowledge and an insight to what the experts do in their everyday fields. The workshops that stood out to me were Patient Simulators and CPR. One of most important skills I learned at SARAS, is the ability to interact with other colleagues who have the same interests and goals. I interacted with experts gaining knowledge into their field, and talked with fellow students who shared the same interest in the medical field. I became friends with people I would not normally befriend in high school, because they understood what it took to make it in medicine and what hard work achieves. I would recommend SARAS to any young bright student interested in the medical field or just looking for a sense of direction in life. Attending SARAS was one of the best and most influential things in my life. It will continue to have an impact on my career and future as a scholar. – Alex

=====

The 2014 SARAS program was an amazing experience for me. I will admit I was not ecstatic about the idea at first. I mean, what rising senior wants to wake up at 7:30 in the morning on a Saturday to learn? To my surprise, though, the lectures were actually extremely interesting. Even those that were hard to understand. My high school career is quickly coming to an end, meaning I'll have to know what I want to do for the rest of my life soon. The program let me know that I do in fact want to stay in the medical field. The fact that we had the opportunity to meet so many experts of different professions in the medical field was amazing. It let us students see firsthand what their profession is really about. Another perk of the SARAS program that I will not dare forget to mention was the food! I'm a big fan of food, and I was SO happy when I found out we weren't getting cold cheese sandwiches every day. I appreciate Dr. P and all of his helpers for making my July interesting and educational.

Alyssa

=====

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to be a part of SARAS. It was an amazing experience for me. I enjoyed everything from the presentations to the salads to the random Bollywood songs. Everyone I met and talked to was very nice, and the volunteers/helpers/organizers were really friendly. I made lots of good friends that I still keep in touch with. We became so close that we all went back during the last week of SARAS and visited the veteran's home again. My favorite workshop was Clinical Laboratory Sciences because it had a lot of activities and I enjoyed learning about forensics.. Another fun workshop was CPR and Defibrillation because it was very hands-on (pun completely intended) and everyone was able to participate together. I feel like those three weeks went by way too quickly and I still miss waking up and going to Lecture Hall 5 every day and seeing everyone there (even if most of us were half-asleep in the mornings). I made wonderful memories and learned a lot about different health science careers-some of which I didn't even know existed. I am so glad I was able to participate and wouldn't mind helping out with it in the future (hint hint). Thank you once again for this great program and I hope to see it continue for many more years!

Respectfully,
Amber

=====

SARAS was one of the most unique and fun experiences I have had. Although I knew I wanted to be a doctor, SARAS introduced me to so many new fields of medicine that really helped me figure out what I wanted to be in the future. I loved how it wasn't just all lectures, and that there was hands-on experience, like the spinal tap. I met many new friends that I wouldn't have met elsewhere. You and the SARAS staff were always so helpful and nice. I'm really happy that I was able to come to SARAS this summer! Thank you so much for creating this program and I hope it continues for a long time.

Andrea

=====

Hope everything is well and you're enjoying the last of your summer days without the vexatious kids. Just kidding. This is Arunima, I am so sorry for the delayed response however I had been busy and I wanted to put much time and thought into the response. I had enjoyed the program so much and feel thankful to have been a part of a program where the director is like our ~~Uncle~~ best friend and all the coordinators were so helpful whenever we did have any questions or anything like that and they also had fun activities planned for us. At first, when I had walked into the first of SARAS I had no idea what to expect, whether or not I would like it or not. So, I sat in seat meeting a new friend who I would later find to be someone who I really had lot in common with and kept my eyes open to all the opportunities that this program had to offer. Surprisingly, I was able to keep up with a lot of the lectures on each and every person's occupation. The thing I liked was how each expert first gave a brief, with pictures, presentation on what their occupation was and what they did day to day and everything they might experience in their career. I found this to be really helpful because it gave me an insight into the medical and research work fields and also allowed to maybe narrow my choices and open other choices for what I might be able to become when I grow. Plus, having the steps needed, with every occupation, to get there was really helpful because it showed what I should do after or during high school. It also encouraged me to not get too overwhelmed with all the college stuff and to just focus and I'll be fine. Moving onto the workshops, they were all hands on. I'm a very tactile learner so this part was very aiding to be able to do what some people in the field would. Last but not least,

the lunches. They were all amazing and really delicious not to mention different every day. So all in all, very sorry that you have read such a long response so just in case you were to just skip to the end the summary is : Thank you so much for the whole program for I enjoyed it a lot. Also, thank you to all the coordinators for everything they did. Also the experts for coming and giving amazing presentations and being so helpful.

Regards,
Arunima

I had a lovely time there, made a lot of friends and learned about the different fields in medical sciences and sciences in general. The labs were the most enjoyable because of the hands on experience. The veteran's home visit shouldn't be stopped. It was wonderful and inspiring to me. Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed. The science fair at the end was informative and exciting. I hope it can expand to a bigger event where a more variety of people can participate. It gave me a snippet of college life -somewhat- and made my summer a bit more productive.

Thank you Dr. Srinivas and the team for making this a possibility. Good luck for the upcoming years in your studies, research, social life etc.

Arshita

At the beginning of this program, I didn't know if I was going to like it or not. But after now that it has finished, I can honestly say that I have really enjoyed being a part of SARAS over the three weeks. It has certainly been an exciting experience for me, and has exposed me to the different fields of medicine; some of which I had knew nothing about before participating in this program. Not only did I learn a lot, but I also met a few friends that I might keep in touch with. A lot of the lectures were very different and diverse; from Genetic Engineering to Dentistry. Some of the lectures that were of interest of me were of dentistry, surgery and anesthesiology. Not only were the lectures full of information, but the speakers apprehended my interest and helped me to consider different fields of science. I think that what makes this program special is the fact that so many of these doctors, researchers, professionals, and experts have taken time out of their days in order to speak to us high school students. Their vast information about their own field and their interactions with us by means of answering questions or performing investigations was a key and unique aspect of this program. I also appreciated the SAT classes because I was able to learn tactics and guidelines to help me succeed. SARAS has enhanced my passion in the medical field, and introduced me into new potentials, probabilities and opportunities available in the medical field. There are so many interesting specialties and research projects that I would love to learn more about in the future. Dr. Srinu was cool and likes to have fun, he joked about everything, but he knew when to take things serious because there is always a time for fun and a time for play. He showed us how to balance and still get the most out of the program. The program was amazing and the food was also delicious. I hope that this program success continues in the future, because I think that it is a valuable resource for any student who wishes to enter the field of medicine or science in general. Thank you very much!

Bhailu

Thank you for organizing the SARAS program this summer. The program provided me with such a wonderful learning experience into the medical field. Before the program, I didn't know anything about anesthesiology nor was it even an interest of mine to research. However, thanks to the SARAS program, I now have a broader knowledge of what it means to be an anesthesiologist and have developed an interest in that field as well as other medical topic such as active potential, sleep, maxillofacial surgery, cell regeneration, (my favorite) ophthalmology, etc. Although the lectures were helpful in determining my future in medicine, I wish there had been more hands-on opportunities other than the labs that we had done. Aside from the lectures and labs, the food was fairly good and the staff was very helpful. Also because of the program I was able to create good contacts through the professors and the attendees.

Thank you again for a wonderful learning experience.

Brandon.

So, my experience was phenomenal. Some days seemed longer. Some days seemed shorter. Some days were tiring and I wanted to fall asleep. Despite all these things I have to admit, I enjoyed it. I felt ten times more emotional, ten times more frustrated, ten times more excited, ten times more awestruck, ten times more responsible, ten times more scientific, ten times more OCD, ten times more intelligent, and ten times more

gluttonous. But you know what? I also grew ten years wiser. Yes, that much. This program took an enormous field like the biomedical sciences (infinitely enormous, it's always changing :) and summed it up for all us high school students in just three weeks. But I'm going to be really honest. When I first made the decision to attend this program, I thought I was crazy. I mean three weeks away from home in a science camp doesn't exactly sound like a blast (no offense). But the friends I made there, the professionals I met there, and the food I ate there (of course) created many memories which will forever live in my heart. Thank you.

Brundha

When I first came to the SARAS program, I did not enjoy being forced by my mother to go. I also did not enjoy learning anything during my summer. As the weeks passed, I made new friends that shared the same goals and interests as I did. I actually learned new and interesting things and I had some fun with my new friends. I think that if I did not go to the SARAS program, I would not make the connections that I did. I want to thank you, Dr. Pentyala, for organizing this program

Carmin

The SARAS 2014 program was a very rewarding experience. The mixture of learning and amount of fun I had was truly memorable. The lectures with top researchers and doctors was a interesting way to get exposure to the different fields of medicine and sciences. The first day of the program I thought it would be three weeks of sitting in a room full of boring lectures, and some days it was. However, the amount of days I was intrigued by the things we were learning and the times I spent laughing were unforgettable. The trip to the veterans home, the cpr workshop, the king gimp documentary, and Dr.Srini's dipstick story were some of my favorite moments. Lastly, the friends I've made at SARAS were truly unforgettable. If you guys are reading this thanks for a great 3 weeks and all the times you've made me laugh. I really hope we see each other soon. Thank you Dr. Srini and everyone else associated with the program. SARAS was such a great experience for me and I wish I could go back.

- Cathy

Thank you so much for allowing me the incredible experience that was SARAS 2014. This was an unbelievable event that will not leave me. Though the medical field is an impossibly large world, I can proudly say that this event has given me at the least an acquaintance with all of its corners. I know what I would like to be.

Daniel

The days I got to spend at SARAS were definitely interesting. From sitting through lectures about sleep patterns, cardiology, and a variety of other medical subjects, I have learned quite a bit from all the experts' lectures. I enjoyed all the time we also spent in the lab, where we got to learn about how to use new equipment. I had always known that there were many fields to go into in the field of medicine, but I never imagined this many! I could see myself pursuing some of the careers of the experts who lectured at SARAS and enjoying them as well. My experience at SARAS will not be one I will forget in a short while. Sincerely,

Michelle

Thank you for hosting this amazing program for us. It gave me lots of insights on new, improved medical fields and equipment (that I never knew about before). I feel that this camp ignited my path for a career, not that it may be medical or scientific, but something that can relate to or aid in certain medical sections. It was fun to be able to perform various medical procedures with friends and others. The workshops helped me learn a lot about lab work and also how to save lives (CPR). Finally, the food provided was fantastic. I think this was the most times I have tried new food in a three week span. Thank you once again for this amazing opportunity.

Sincerely,

Daniel

I just want to thank you so much for doing this three week program. SARAS has given me a better understanding on so many different topics. I enjoyed these last couple of weeks and got to meet many new people from all over the country.

I enjoyed all of the lectures but more specifically I enjoyed the maxillofacial surgery lecture. It was so graphic!!! It kept us all very entertained especially because we were given specific cases to follow. All of the speakers were great and taught us so much! I'll be sure to recommend the SARAS program to my close friends who are also interested in medicine!
Thanks again and hope to see you soon,
Dominique

When I first started SARAS I did not know what to expect as I have never attended the program before; I did not even know what SARAS stood for. I thought that SARAS would not be fun, but that changed as soon as we started the lectures. When I was able to experience it first hand, I found that it was extremely interesting and informative. Throughout the program, we were able to experience and listen to many complex but understandable lectures. Many great speakers spoke to us about their respective fields of study and we were able to learn much about overall medical science. One of my favorite lectures given was the lecture on Gynecology. That lecture got the whole room laughing and I truly enjoyed myself during that moment. The labs that we did were very fun especially the CPR course and the emergency situations course. The Veterans Nursing Home was a new experience for me and I was given the opportunity to learn about the future of Nursing Home care. While at the Nursing Home, the veteran I spoke to was really funny and I had the chance to talk to someone who was in the service to our country. I was a dorm kid at Stony brook University and that experience made my stay all the more fun. I was able to grow close with many of my peers and we now still keep in touch. SARAS helped me to decide what to do with my future. I hope that in the future, I will be able to pursue a career in the medical field. SARAS was a life-alternating experience that I am sure I will never forget. My favorite memory will be about the enthusiasm and fervor that you yourself provided to the lectures to make them interesting. I will recommend people in the future to attend the SARAS program. I am happy and proud that this summer, instead of going to the beach with friends, I chose to further my knowledge with an amazing program.

Thank you so much and all the best,
Dustin

In all honesty, I went into the SARAS program expecting to be given college lectures to which I would have minimal understanding. I thought I would be sitting in a hall full of strangers whom I would share nothing in common with. However by the end of the first week, I'd already learned so much, and had friends to sit with me at lunch. I found most of the lectures really interesting, especially the ones about genetic engineering. The lunches were great as well, way better than I expected! I also made friends who I know I'm going to keep in touch with for a long time!

Some of the speeches given were not only educational, but many were inspirational as well. Dr. Pentyala's several talks about his work and how he turned one idea into such a big investment so seemingly easily really encouraged me that, if I try hard enough, I might be able to do something incredibly amazing as well. I also really liked how the program showed many different fields within the sciences, giving me a chance to explore all the different paths it had to offer. I appreciated being able to understand the college path it took to navigate to any of these careers in the field as well—I had only a small amount of knowledge about how that process worked.

Overall I really enjoyed the camp, and felt that it was the best way to spend my summer. I hope this program continues running for a very long time, to inspire many more students like it did to me. Thank you for giving me this amazing opportunity to explore science, and Stony Brook University.

- Emily

The impression I had at SARAS from the beginning to the end was a good one filled with interest, enjoyment and learning. Most of the speakers had quite interesting things to say and really allowed me to peek into each of their fields and their studies and learn a little more about all sorts

of things. Going to labs and working hands on and seeing firsthand science going down and how the technology developed and information we learned applied was the best parts of SARAS to me personally apart from being able to socialize with other likeminded people and learn about some topics that particularly interested me. The food provided was very good and am very grateful for the lack of want for seconds. The only aspect that comes to mind that is an issue that can be fixed is more focus on teams and team building rather than just having a predetermined group of people that you're just with. I thoroughly enjoyed SARAS this summer and would definitely like to see this program continue on in the future.

Eric.

=====
In regards to my feedback on the SARAS program, here it is: Many of the lectures I feel were interesting but I would have liked more lab experience from the program itself. My overall experience in the program was one that I feel was definitely worth my time. I hope that the program continues to grow and improve over the years.

--Francesco

=====
I thought the SARAS program was a great experience! It was nice that we were all able to learn in a more college-like setting and style. For me, I thought having real professors and physicians come talk to us was really cool. It's an opportunity that we maybe would not have outside of SARAS. I really liked the workshops as well. The hands-on work we were able to do was interesting and complimented the lectures very well. Overall, my time at SARAS was wonderful and helped open my eyes to more science and research.

-Megan

=====
This is Gouttham from Edison NJ. I am going to attend junior year in high school and this was honestly one of the greatest experiences of my life. I enjoyed every minute of those three weeks, whether it was the delicious food or the numerous laboratory procedures/experiments. The experience was not only fun, but there was a lot of learning involved as the program gave me a better understanding of the different aspects of med school and how it is living the life of a variety of different doctors. It made me realize and a sense of direction I want to take in my medical future and in which field I truly enjoyed learning about the most. With my new knowledge on the different career paths I can take, I have my eyes set on two major medical fields that found truly fascinating. The maxillofacial trauma surgeon and the cardiologist grabbed my attention and they added fuel to my passion toward science. Although all the lectures were useful in their own way, the one speaker that I found more interesting than all the others, and the one that supersedes every single field of medicine was the field of genetic engineering. The sheer amount of research and paths in the single field is mind boggling. After the lecture, I have been reading many papers and have recently started a book that deals with the scopes of genetic I gained insight his field and the technology involved in future medical trials. The one thing about the camp that inspired me and made me determined to become a surgeon was the famous Doctor Sinivas Pentyala. Your humor and the accomplishments that you have achieve truly amazed me and every other SARAS student. You were the reason the class was so fun and you brought life in between the long lectures. It was your "stupid" billion dollar ideas that gives me hope that someday, I will be able to reach your level of expertise in the medical world, and your level of involvement and thirst for knowledge. It will be a long road to becoming a surgeon and a researcher, but I am ready to take the necessary steps. Thank you for giving me one of the best experiences of my life. The experts I met, the friends I made and with and the memories that came from this camp are priceless. I will forever remember what this program has done for me. Thank you, once again Doctor Srini, for all you have done for me, and I hope we meet again.

<*>Gouttham <*>

=====
Overall, SARAS really opened up my perspective to other medical professions out there. I became introduced to various other occupations relating to medicine and research. This program was informative/educational, yet fun.

I made many friends there who shared the same passions and interests as me. I would definitely recommend SARAs to other students leaning toward any medical/ research occupations.

Grace

=====

When the SARAS program first began, I was not sure what to expect. Not only was I going to attend a three-week long course focusing on science and medicine during my summer vacation, but I was also staying on the Stony Brook campus since I am not from Long Island. I entered the course without knowing a single person, and I was apprehensive of the whole idea of staying in a college dorm with countless strangers because I have never had an experience like this one. Also, I thought that the days would consist of boring lectures and crappy food. Luckily, I was completely wrong. I left this program with new knowledge, a better understanding of science and medicine, more questions about these fields, and countless memories.

The past three weeks were honestly an amazing experience, and I'm so glad that I was able to be part of this program. While some lectures were more interesting than others, overall, they were very informative and had an impact on me. Having experts from a variety of fields of science and medicine allowed for me to learn new bits of information every day and become interested in subjects that I have never even considered before. Being exposed to doctors and scientists of all different specialties made me realize the importance of science; it shapes the future, and we are the future of medicine and science. Now, after attending this course, I know that I want to major in science or medicine in college.

While the lectures and workshops were very fun and interesting, my favorite aspect of this program was the people. There was such a diverse group of students participating in the SARAS course, and I am very thankful for being able to interact with people I would normally not be exposed to (I live in a very homogenous town). I honestly do not think I would have had as much as a memorable time if I had not stayed on campus, and I definitely recommend rooming, for it made the experience that much better. There were over 100 people in this program, and I could not list more than 40 people, but I became friends with all the 25 SARAS students who stayed in the dorms. By the end of the program, we were all one big happy family. I met some amazing people and we created memories that I will cherish, and I was very sad to say goodbye.

I would recommend this program for anybody interested in science or medicine in any way, or even those unsure of their feelings towards these subjects. This course allowed for glimpses into the different fields and sparked interest and curiosity within me. I would like to thank all the experts who volunteered their time to make this possible, and I would especially like to thank the man who made this all possible, Dr. Srinivas Pentyala.

Hannah

=====

Hello! It's Hassam, a member of the recently finished SARAS Program. I would like to start off by saying that I really did have a blast at the SARAS Program. I loved the variety of lectures, especially the ones that I personally had interest in. I want to become a cardiologist, so both the Respiratory Technician and the Cardiologist himself made a huge impression. Their workshop, like every other workshop, gave a hint at what's in store for their field. I know it's going to sound strange, but I actually got a thrill when it came to the hands-on activities. I found them both educational and fun. This made me like the program even more, since I was able to end each day of lectures from experts with a workshop alongside those experts. I found some of the specialists' work(s) intriguing, especially the bio-engineering and the sleep technician (I had sleep apnea when I was younger, so I was able to relate to this specialist's information). Lastly, I would like to address you, Dr. Pentyala, and your helpers. You really did make the program even more enjoyable than it already was. The gifts for asking somewhat intelligent questions, your witty comments, and not to mention the Bollywood references here and there made me, personally, feel more at home in that lecture hall. I would like to thank you for allowing me to be a part of the program, which, in my opinion, was just downright fantastic.

Thank you for everything!

Hassam

=====

First of all, SARAS is the most engaging and useful program I have taken so far. I loved how we got an exposure to so many different fields. Coming in, I only had a one or two fields of medicine in mind. After the first week alone I quickly learned that there was no way that I could not make a definite decision,

since there are so many aspects to healthcare. Every lecture brought up new and innovative points/ideas. I especially enjoyed the insights of Dr. Pentyala, most humorous, and most useful. I would rather come to the program an hour early than sleep in. These words are incapable to conveying how much I appreciate the opportunity to meet with so many researchers, doctors, administrators, etc. The SARAS program is truly unique, especially in the Bollywood area! Your combination of both lectures and hands on workshops was very good. It became a family. Thank you uncle Srini for expanding my knowledge so much, with great hospitality and a quality program. I look forward to coming to the science fair next year!

-Ibrahim

=====

I really enjoyed the first couple weeks of my summer because of this wonderful SARAS program. The overall experience was totally awesome and I really loved it. To get to SBU, I had to take the LIRR. This was the first time traveling alone, and on a train, for me. I had the company of my other friend and few other SARAS kids. It was actually quite fun and of course it was a new experience. Most of the lectures were interesting, although some were somewhat not of such kind. But then that was part of the purpose, to get us interested in some particular areas. The lecturers were all, undoubtedly, great speakers and had great information to share with us. It is indeed very difficult to compress loads of medical knowledge into a one hour lecture, but the lecturers did a terrific job in organizing all that information. I came into SARAS being interested in cardiology, but left with interest in GI. I still like cardiology, but now I found another area of interest. The breaks in between the lectures were quite fun, especially with the exercise and bollywood songs and activities such as the tongue twisters. The lunch was really good too, and especially since I eat Indian food on a daily basis. It was something new and different to my taste. The SAT program was also really nice because I gained more confidence in my college test prep. I liked it a lot and I'm actually enrolling for the fall session this year. My most favorite part about SARAS was the lab/ workshop activities that were after lunch. They were so much fun! The best one, I feel, was the simulation man with the heart attack. It was my first experience with a sim body and I was very enthralled because this was just a mannequin! If it was a real person... It would've been way more intense. I got a feel of how it is like to even be an ordinary person standing by a patient in such conditions. It sure is a fascinating field. My only suggestion for this workshop section would be to perhaps have even more experiences with the sim bodies, since I know most people will love it! The science fair on the last day of SARAS! Man that day felt so awkward since I just couldn't digest the fact that it was the last day! However, I'm glad to have left the program with having said presented at SBU SARAS Science Fair. It was another wonderful experience since many professionals came by my experiment and spoke to me. I felt great that day and also very happy to be presenting at SBU. I learned a lot that day, from other's works all the way to how to make my works more intriguing and comparable. The overall experience only made me more confident. All the helpers did a great job in handling all the students and organizing everything for us. They were very nice and also friendly and funny. I was glad to be around such jovial people! Also, another part I really enjoyed was the trip to the veterans home. It was a pleasing experience and I learned A LOT about seniors. It sure is good to know since this information will come in handy someday :) Lastly, I would like to thank you, Dr. Srini, for putting all this effort into making our summer more enjoyable and productive. I loved SARAS and the whole new experience of being a little more independent such as traveling on my own and using my own money to buy snacks. The overall experience not only taught me about medicine and science, but also about life in general. You are like a paradigm for a superhuman, Dr. Srini. You fascinate and inspire me. I don't know how, but you managed to do so much each day including your actual work, the SARAS program, and of course, free time. I really hope to work with you someday in science research, it would be my pleasure.

Janani

=====

The SARAS program was a truly interesting, fun, and worthwhile program. The lectures presented me with fascinating information about different fields of medicine. They furthered my interest in pursuing a career in medicine in the future. I also enjoyed the activities at SARAS, especially the Bollywood music and head-shoulders-knees-and toes. The trip to the Lon g Island state veterans home was also an enriching experience the SARAS program provided me. The free lunches provided were always very delicious. I was also humbled from winning the 'best comedy writer' Overall the ' program was a great experience I will never forget.

Joshua

=====
Hey Mr. Srimi! I had a blast at SARAS! I made so many new friends, met so many people, and thoroughly enjoyed learning so much about the various healthcare professions and their benefits! I hope stony brook will my future home and place of residence when I make this difficult choice of colleges, Etc. It was a great time and I'm sad it ended! Looking forward to having more and more memories in post SARAS events!

Josaiah

=====
This SARAS program was awesome. I am glad that I took the time to meet all of these wonderful doctors and was so glad for all the exposure that I received. Thank you for all the great things that you prepared for us!

Seongjee

=====
The Saras program has made a huge impact on me and my life. First of all, I learned about the different professions in the medical field. From ophthalmologist to radiologist I learned the specialties of each profession. Most importantly, I learned the requirements to become a doctor and the hard work needed to become one. This program has prepared me to follow my dream of becoming a doctor.

Thanks for the program,

Justin

=====
I thought that the overall camp was interesting and definitely introduced me to a whole wider range of career options in healthcare that I was not aware of before. I was able to meet lots of new friends and also experience the Stony Brook campus, because I took a bus around the campus to the train station almost every day. The lectures were interesting, but most of the time, I enjoyed the actual hands on activities like the SIMs man in the emergency room and the CPR lesson. It would have been cool if each person from there profession showed us around their department, or let us interact and do more activities, rather than sitting down and listening to them speak. It also would have been amazing to get a tour around the hospital! (Although highly unlikely, considering there are 100+ kids in the camp that would be disrupting the hospital). For the food, I think I enjoyed the pizza the most! As a Korean girl, I felt that the Indian food was a little hard adjust to as the tastes were very unfamiliar (hahaha)~ It was actually my first time trying Indian food, and i was very confused on what was what! :) Overall, this camp was a good experience and I want to thank you and all the helpers, speakers, and caterers for the hard work they put in to set up this camp!

- Karen

=====
I would just like to say that I absolutely loved the camp. I went into it thinking it was going to be very boring (except for the few science lectures), but after the first day it completely changed my mind. I had a wonderful time as red leader and an even better time taking your toys. This was an experience I will never forget. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

-Kayla

=====
Thank you for accepting me into your SARAS program. I really enjoyed the lectures, the labs, the catered lunches, the games and the laughs. SARAS is a great summer program that exposed me to a variety of professions. And allowed me to explore different avenues of science. I loved the science fair and the veterans visit the most! I having the opportunity to talk to our American heroes, was very moving. The science fair was also one of my favorite things SARAS had. I had the privilege to see fascinating projects and had the chance to discuss about my project with experts! This program was a great experience that I'll never forget! Thank you again to you and your staff, the experts and the caterers.

Alexis

=====
I am very glad that you gave me the amazing opportunity to be exposed to different career options. The lectures and the workshops were very well organized and the food was great. My favorite experience was going to the

Long Island State Veteran's Home and talking to the current residents. I hope that you continue to run this program with incoming high school students. It opened my eyes to how many options and fields of science and medicine there are to pursue. I am more engaged and more interested in the medical field now that I have a better understanding of what career I would like to follow through with after college. Thanks for organizing this wonderful program and for making SARAS a great experience for me!

Thanks again,
Lina

=====

You should have received my response, but I will reiterate in a few words – Excellent program, excellent experience, excellent leader, impressed all around! Thank you.

LouAnn

=====

I have to be honest. At first, I had no clue as to what to expect from SARAS. Then as the days went on, I was really glad that I came to SARAS. It was truly a great program because I have always been looking to have an introduction to the medical field and research so that I could consider different career options to pursue and possible research projects for school. I feel like I have gained so much knowledge over the past 3 weeks and all the experts were amazing! The workshops were fun too. The SAT program was very effective and helpful. Thank you Dr. Pentyala for running an amazing program!
-Lydia

=====

I'm sorry that I haven't sent this sooner I have been in Europe. I'm actually still in France right now, I wanted to thank you for hosting and organizing such an amazing program. I want to be a neonatal surgeon and learning in SARAS really motivated me. I am certain that I want to be a surgeon because each time I learned something from the speakers I was just more curious and had more questions. Thank you for giving me this experience. I'm still trying to convince my parents to let me go to Africa next summer through the doctors without borders high school program. I also sent in my application for the WISE program. If you have any other suggestions or programs that you think I should try please let me know. This entire field is so fascinating to me and I want to be a part of it and learn as much as I possibly can. Thank you again for inspiring me. I hope all is well.

~(the niece you never knew you had) Catherine

=====

The SARAS program at stony brook was a wonderful experience and probably the best thing that happened to me all summer. The trip to the Long Island Veterans' Home was an excellent experience full of new facts concerning the need for people who want to study in the field of Gerontology and the military exposure of the men who reside there. I especially enjoyed the lab work we did with hands on experience, learning various techniques such as how to resuscitate someone and how to cultivate bacteria. I hope you will continue this program for many years to come so that you can give the gift of science to new minds.

Malik

=====

Uncle Srinivas :))

I really want to tell you thank you so much! You cannot imagine how much this program was really helpful for me. Every day, I learn new stuff and can have fun at the same time! You made my first summer in U.S is amazing! It was great to meet great doctors and experts! SBU is on my college list now :) it is really very strong in science.

Sincerely,

Mariam

" The Egyptian girl :)"

=====

The SARAS program has finally come to an end, and even though I am sad to go, the memories I have made will stay forever even if the program itself won't. I arrived on the first day with high expectations, like witnessing surgery and watching someone use chemicals to make someone's clothes disappear, but the lectures that took place instead were surprisingly almost as satisfying. The events like tongue twisters, hands-only CPR and stumping the expert are so unique, no one can forget them. However, I can't hide the fact that

even though I payed attention as much as I could, there was so much to learn and experience that I had to have missed something (But that's probably because of my doodle-filled notebook). I came together with some of the most memorable people I will ever meet with in a while; one of which was the man who spent time both in front of and behind the curtain which was you, Dr. Pentyala. From you I have learned how to make a million dollars, how to make friends and how to steal other people's ideas, even though I never will (As tempting as it is). I had expected SAT test prep to be just as boring as history class, but the tutors did an excellent job keeping everybody's attention by telling stories (And throwing in an occasional swear word). All my life I had wanted to be an engineer, but this program has opened my eyes to wonderful fields of biomedical engineering and chemistry with proteins, and now I am starting to shift my life-long dream. The SARAS program was definitely an experience that changed who I am and what I'm interested in with laughs along the way.

Matt

=====

I am sorry that I took so long to get this email to you, but we left for vacation the day after SARAS ended and we just arrived home. My three weeks of SARAS was a really great experience. By far my favorite lecture was the one by maxillofacial surgeon, I loved the way he gave us clinical stories from beginning to end and showed us the pictures, radiological films and surgical photos. This lecture was inspiring and engaging. I also really liked the patient simulator labs, I wish we could have had more labs like that one. I also think that maybe an official college tour of the Stony Brook University campus would be a nice addition. The lunches were pretty good. I do have to say that over all you and your staff ran a very smooth program and I did gain a lot from participating!

Thank you so much,

Samara

=====

I thought that the SARAS program was really great and it exposed me to different areas of medicine that I wouldn't have known about if I didn't do the program.

Thanks you so much,

Michelle

=====

I never knew how much the SARAS program could have an effect on me. From the lifetime friends that I made to the information that was given to me, I had an unbelievable experience at the SARAS program. My goal was and still is to become a doctor that is able to help others and save lives. However, my eyes were opened to the endless possibilities of jobs available to help others from being a doctor to a researcher or working in the labs. I was never ecstatic in becoming a surgeon or researcher due to the many years required in schooling and training before I could begin my practice. However, through the scientists and doctors that came into to talk to us, I learned that every year of training is worth it in the end. The lecturers repeatedly mentioned how nothing was more beautiful and satisfying than giving the patient a second chance to live. I could also hear the enthusiasm of the lecturer when they were sharing their research or explaining their jobs. I too wanted to bring happiness to not only endless patients and their families but also myself as I saw from the scientists and doctors. Through the program, I broadened my spectrum of jobs to not only a physician but also researcher, nurse, scientist, surgeon, and so much more. I am no longer afraid of the years of training but rather look forward to learning so that I too could make a difference in the lives of others and bring happiness to patients and their family.

Not only did I learn about the different opportunities available to me, I learned that I don't have to be limited to one occupation. One of the most memorable quotes that I remember was, "Who says you can only have one job. You can do whatever you want." I realized that I wasn't limited to only being a physician. I realized that I could become a researcher and potentially change the lives of many people, including patients that I would never meet in my life. As Dr. Pentyala mentioned, "you never know what will be the billion dollar idea," I became inspired to broaden my interests to researching. I realized that just because I'm in high school doesn't me I'm useless but rather I have much to learn and contribute. I realized that sometimes science isn't about lavish and complex ideas but could be simple and obvious but life-changing.

Through the workshops in the afternoon, I was given a glimpse of the exciting and life-changing occupations available. From working in the labs or working as a surgeon in the Emergency Room, the

opportunities were endless. Through the workshops I was able to engage in hands-on interactions and experience personally the daily lives of some of the scientists and potential job I could have in the future.

Through the many lectures that I've listened to, I have become inspired to work harder in school to reach my goal to become a doctor. Although I don't know exactly what job I want or which division I want to specialize in, I do know that I want to help others. I know that becoming a doctor is not the only way of helping others but there are countless behind the scenes that are just as important.

I would like to thank the SARAS program and Dr. Pentyala for opening my eyes to new opportunities. I can honestly say that I did not expect to have been so sad to leave the program. From the lectures to the prizes that Dr. Pentyala threw to people, these three weeks have been unforgettable memories for me. However, more importantly, the program fostered and encouraged my dream of becoming a doctor and inspired me to work harder towards my goal. I could not have imagined spending my summer a different way than being a part of the SARAS program at Stony Brook University.

Myung

=====

The SARAS program at Stony Brook was a very enlightening experience for me. It was able to open the field of science and medicine to me and show me various different fields that exist and are available to students that pursue science. The SARAS program showed me which fields would appeal to me more and which are not as interesting to me, which is crucial to know early on. From Lecture Hall 5 to the Long Island Veteran's Home, there was so much to do and much to learn in the 3 weeks spent at Stony Brook. As summer now comes to an end, it does sadden me to think of how short my summer truly was, but at the same time, I am glad that I chose to spend some of my free time at SARAS and I am proud that I chose to make the right decision in the end.

Nikhil

=====

Being a part of SARAS was a very rewarding and eye-opening experience. I learned so much and became exposed to many different parts of the medical field. This program also gave me a newfound appreciation for all the scientific professionals who research, dedicate time and effort and excel in their field, regardless of what they do. One of the more memorable parts of this experience is meeting a new group of people and becoming close friends, as if we all have been friends for years. Those kinds of memories are priceless, and SARAS is the reason for my new friendships and fun times. Looking back at the three weeks at Stony Brook, it makes me sad that it is over, but I'm very happy I decided to do this program. Thank you so much for YOUR hard work and dedication in putting this program together and making it a great success.

Respectfully yours,

Olivia

=====

I came into the SARAS program hoping for a small introduction to the medical field, and an excuse to say that I didn't waste my summer. But I received much more than that. I and 122 other high school students were fortunate enough to be able to be exposed to a medical atmosphere and see the instruments modern day doctors use in diagnosis and treatment. We were privileged to meet the experts of stony brook in their own particular field. The SARAS program was definitely more than I asked for, never would I look into geriatrics but the trip to the Long Island Veterans Home was a great way to introduce the topic. I believe one of my favorite parts of SARAS was getting to know the leaders of program. Having the ability to ask any question and receive an answer from a graduate student's point of view was very useful. Fortunately SARAS wasn't only lectures and workshops. Dr.Pentyala did realize that we were only high school students and didn't forget to make sure the students enjoyed the program and had fun throughout the 3 weeks. The small games in between lectures and lunch were great opportunities to get to know all the other students in the program. Overall I think the SARAS program was a great, hands on, opportunity for high school students to have a basic introduction to many medical fields; as well as a great way to spend the summer. I personally had a great experience learning, and would definitely recommend this program to any high school student interested in the sciences.

Sureet

=====

My experience at SARAS was phenomenal, it gave me an opportunity to learn about professions I did not know about before the camp. It also allowed me to learn some lab safety and other medical skills

such as C.P.R. During your camp, I found and made many new friends due to the boarding option given by the camp.

Patrick

My name is Pooja and I was a student at SARAS this past summer. I had a remarkable experience attending SARAS this summer! I learned a lot about different medical professions during the three weeks at SARAS. I have always known that I wanted to go into medicine but this program gave me an eye-opener to all the possible opportunities I have. I really enjoyed participating in the hands-on workshops and performing model procedures like spinal taps and CPR. This program made my summer productive and made me realize what I want to do in the future.

Thanks,

Pooja

My SARAS experience was one I'll never forget. I came into the camp with a mindset that the students would receive lengthy lectures and feel bored. I was wrong. The professors were very active with the students, asking question and telling jokes to them. The topics chosen were extremely interesting and the food was fantastic. The labs were hands on and I learned a lot coming out of this program. Mr. Pentyala was an amazing host as he told us plenty of jokes, stories, and kept us entertained during the long day. SARAS was a summer experience I'll never forget.

Rahul

I had a great time. The food was great. I met a lot of interesting people, and learned many new things. Now, I am more excited to learn about my chosen profession. I also made friends. I want to thank you personally for putting this all together for us. I imagine it is a lot of work.

Rebecca

The SARAS Program was by far the best experience I've ever had in preparing for my future. I was very ecstatic to be among 125 other students with the exact same interest as myself. Walking into the program on the first day, I had no idea what it would be like. As the days progressed, I suddenly realized how much I started enjoying the program. Over the past three weeks of the program, I've learned more about science and the careers in medicine than I ever had before (thanks to the various speakers and their impressive lectures). Not only did it teach me about science, but also about how important the concept of learning is. This program will definitely influence my decisions in the distant future as a rising senior. This was a terrific experience and I'll be sure to share these stories with my family, friends, etc. Overall, this program was absolutely incredible in that it was flawlessly organized under the efforts of Dr. Srin. I'd just like to thank you for putting this program together.

Thank you once again,

Matthew

I really enjoyed the SARAS program. I believed that having so many lecturers from different backgrounds and professions helped open my eyes to more than one aspect of medicine. I liked the food for the most part and how we were given an ample amount of food throughout the program. I really liked the workshops since they taught us very important techniques that would affect us not only during surgery or work, but also in our everyday lives. I did not like the fact that no one specifically came from the department of neurology but still enjoyed the other speakers. The science fair was probably my favorite part as we were able to learn about different research projects being conducted, the amount of work required to do so, and what kinds of results were achieved. I also would like to thank you (and your associates) for working so hard to put this together with such minimal help from outside. Thank you for making these 3 weeks some of the most memorable times I will ever have! Sincerely,

Rohan

Dear Dr. Pentyala Wow, where do I even start? I first would like to thank Dr. Pentyala for giving me the opportunity to be a part of the SARAS Summer Program and giving me a wonderful, enriching experience. The three weeks I spent at Stony Brook University was the highlight of my summer. This program allowed me to meet many new peers either from New York or out of the country. Along with meeting new friends I had the honor of meeting world renowned experts. Thanks to the experts, Dr. Pentyala and his team I am engulfed in new knowledge about medicine that will lead me to pursue a passion for medicine.

The program began with 125 students in a lecture hall that never knew each other, but we all shared an interest in medicine. After three weeks of stepping out of comfort zones and approaching new people to make new friends we all got along with each other like a big family. New friendships began for me because of this program not only with my program peers but also with the wonderful team that helped us through the program every day. There were so many intelligent and ambitious students in the program; it is certain the future will develop for the better. I am so thankful on making friends with brilliant people.

The experts worked so hard to grab our interest into different medical fields and I must say I am definitely curious in a wide range of medical careers. Each expert taught us life lessons that changed my view on life. Srini inspired me with his stories either on his dipstick invention or his project that can be a cure to prostate cancer. With all the knowledge I accumulated from workshops and lectures I can strive for various medical careers.

I am grateful for a memorable journey. Every day in lecture hall 5 we shared laughs, smiles and notes that we have taken with us as we left this program. In the future I hope to see my talented peers thrive in successful lives either as a cardiothoracic surgeon or as sports medicine manager or whatever life may lead them to be. Thank you so much Dr. Pentyala, the acclaimed experts, the wonderful team and my fellow SARAS members for simply a meaningful experience.

Sabira

=====

I think my time in SARAS was beyond influential. I went into it (slightly unwillingly) thinking I knew where my interests lie. I assumed that my life plan was straightforward, I knew where I wanted to go to school, what it would take to get in; I would major in pre med and go into psychiatry. After attending the SARAS program, my eyes and mind were opened to entire fields I had previously been unaware had even existed- (who even knew about cardiothoracic surgery as a specialty?) I never expected to be excited about ophthalmology- and I certainly never expected to be interested in the surgical aspect, but while watching the cataract videos I was amazed that someone could totally change someone's sight. I never thought I would be interested in something as hands-on as surgery or even something as hands-off (in terms of in patient care) as research, but I found both immensely fascinating. Entire worlds of medicine were opened to me in ways I never expected. I also discovered I didn't necessarily have to major pre-med to get into med school- which made me think about totally different directions and college majors that were made available to me purely through the information I gained from this program. In three weeks, the SARAS program exposed an entirely new plan for my future and paths yet to be explored. So thank you Dr. Pentyala, for giving me the experience of a lifetime!!

Samantha

=====

First of all, I would like to thank you for conducting such a wonderful program! Without SARAS, my summer would have been boring and incomplete for sure! I didn't know learning could be so fun until I attended this program. From the tongue twister competitions, to the Bollywood songs, I simply had a blast! To be honest, I didn't want to leave at all! Again, thank you for such an amazing program!

Sandiya

=====

I would just like to say that SARAS was the best 3 weeks of my summer. It was so informative and entertaining and I enjoyed every bit of it. Thank you so much for giving us the opportunity to work in the lab and meet the experts. I have always wanted to pursue a career in medicine and SARAS was great exposure. I learned so much and I will definitely use it in the future.

I was already decided to become a neurosurgeon and I am so thankful and so glad to this program. Thank you also for the wonderful gifts! The Veterans Home was a great experience and I am so appreciative for this wonderful trip and to the people that I met. I will recommend SARAS to many people. Thank you so much!

Sincerely,
Sanjana

At first I was apprehensive about attending SARAS. Although I was always interested in science and had always considered becoming a physician, I was nervous about dorming with kids I didn't know and attending intimidating lectures by very influential people. However, on the first day all of my qualms were ameliorated. I met a lot of really great people, who would soon become some of my closest friends, and I listened to some really interesting lectures. SARAS taught me what it was to be a health care provider and opened my eyes to health related professions outside of becoming a doctor. I am really thankful for getting the unique opportunity to listen to passionate and talented people talk about what they do within the healthcare realm. SARAS really inspired me to continue to research becoming a doctor/allied health care professional and I am really grateful for my experience there.

Thank you so much!
Sara

To me the SARAS program has shed much light onto professions and practices that I only knew in name before. It has helped me learn about jobs that I probably would've never considered before. In that respect, I am very grateful to SARAS. The workshops also made learning very fun and exciting. My favorite one was the CPR one. Who knew CPR was so labor intensive?

Thank you so much Dr. Pentyala!
-Sarah

Hello Dr. Srimi my overall feedback for the SARAS program is amazing, I felt like I have seen and now am starting to see some of the career paths in my life. That being said it has definitely changed my childhood dream to go into technology... In a good way, I now see that I could end up in a great position in the medical field. I could not have spent my summer month better. The exposure was great, even during long lectures, we had a lot of fun with new friends and talking about the graphic surgery videos that we all hated and loved.

Thank you so much
Sartaj

This SARAS program is something I will never forget. I'm still in shock as to how fast these three weeks have gone by. I knew beforehand that I wanted to pursue medicine and this program allowed me to learn about lots of specific fields within medicine. Being able to listen to all of the intelligent professors, physicians and specialists is something I may never have to opportunity to experience again. It was such an incredible experience to know that everyone in that lecture hall is interested in pursuing science. I met some amazing people that I know I will be in touch with for a long time. So, thank you to you and all of the people involved with organizing this program for everyone. We all appreciate your effort to make this an unforgettable and rewarding experience.

Sathya

During the three weeks of this program I learned a lot about science and research. I always likes science in school but here science was brought to the next level. It was very fun in which we talked to world famous scientists and doctors. This made me certain that when I grow up, I would like to be a doctor. When I get back to school I will definitely tell my friends how much fun this program was. I would recommend for anyone to join this program to have great experience and learn new things.

Surabh

My experience at SARAS was a wondrous one. Getting the chance to listen to so many doctors and professors present interesting information on their occupation was priceless. From the up close and personal experiences that SARAS brought, I have learned much about the fields that I would like to pursue in the future and the fields that I would not enjoy. Some of the workshops were amazing, like our trip to the veterans' home, the physical therapy stations, and the CPR simulation workshop. Thank you once again for putting together this amazing program that offers so much for an affordable price. I wish you the best.

Sincerely,
Selina

Thank you for a wonderful three weeks at Stony Brook... It's fantabulous. SARAS was a truly memorable and educational experience for me. In the beginning I thought it's going to be a series of boring lectures but it turned out to be more memorable and enjoyable. Your presentations were amazing. You are an amazing speaker and motivator. You made it more enjoyable. I learned a lot from the various Professors and Doctors. Because of the lectures from all aspects of the bio-medical field, I got a glimpse of everything the field has to offer. Another great thing I liked about SARAS is the delicious food we had. Also I met lot of people and made couple of good friends and I am going to keep in touch with them for a long time. SARAS was an invaluable experience and I would definitely recommend this program for my brother next year. I just want to say thank you for making me the part of SARAS program and I really hope that SARAS program stays around for many years to come.

Sincerely,
Shruti

This year's SARAS program was most likely one of the most life changing experiences I have had so far. From the dorm life, to the HSC lectures, to the lab activities, I was learning and having fun. I can proudly say that these three weeks have been the funniest and the most educational in my life. Everyone, including you, the graduate students, the SARAS kids, and the lecturers had a unique sense of humor. I learned new material from all of the Stony Brook faculty lecturers. These experts seemed very knowledgeable in their respective fields and were very avid in answering our fervent questions. I extremely appreciated the fact that you tried to personally get everyone to interact with everyone else. The medical knowledge and skills I have learned from this program are really going to aid me in my career as a doctor. From SARAS I have gained much more knowledge of the medical field and have gotten a varied exposure to each sub-field. I enjoyed all of your little stories and jokes, including Srin's Dipstick, the Bollywood songs, the exercise songs, and the "assays." I know that I will take these SARAS memories with me for the rest of my life because of all the new people I have met and all of the knowledge I have gained. I would like to thank you very much for organizing such an engaging program for high school kids like me. To go out of your way and deal with some 120 high school kids is beyond me, but it is very kind of you. Because of the great experience I had from SARAS 2014, I am spreading the word about your program to my family and friends. I hope that in the future I will be able to do research with you because I am very active in science fairs. I would like to step up my research into a more lab-like setting, and that is where I feel that you could really guide me. Listening to all your innovational "billion dollar" ideas made me feel that you are a very knowledgeable and solution seeking mentor. On another note, I really enjoyed the visit to the LISVH because I learned so much about geriatrics and the interaction with the veterans touched me. I would highly suggest continuing this Veterans' Home visit and the entire SARAS program for years to come because our generation needs medical knowledge exposure. Because of SARAS, my interest in the medical field has grown exponentially. My favorite memories were when all of us dorm guys would stay up until 3 AM in the morning just researching about the next day's expert and formulating questions to stump him/her. I made so many friends from the dorms and those who commuted. We became a close bunch; we did research together, made jokes together, and had fun together. I was extremely sad on the last day of SARAS because I felt that these three weeks had gone by too quickly. Overall, SARAS was a very well designed program that engaged me into the medical field, and I would like to thank you very much for having organized it.

Thank you, (Srin's Mama) ;)
Sishir

My experience at SARAS was great. I went into SARAS on a teacher's recommendation. Despite being told that all the students she knew who signed up for the program loved it, I wasn't expecting much. I'm going to be a senior in September and I already have a good idea on what field of science I would like to go into, so what

could the program do for me? Still, I decided to sign up for the program. After the first few days, I began to love the program. Not all of the lectures there were exactly the most interesting thing in the world, but some of them really clicked with me and were just so interesting. Finding these certain lectures interesting has helped me to solidify my choice of which career path I would like to take. The workshops afterwards were an appreciated change from sitting down all day long listening to lectures and writing down notes, and it was nice to get a closer and more hands-on approach to what people in different science professions do and what equipment they work with. Not only were the lectures and workshops great, but the people and the overall atmosphere is what made the program so amazing. Srini and everybody else who helped out with SARAS are so great and are the reason why the program was an overall fun experience. Another major role in why I loved SARAS was the other SARAS students. Everyone was so friendly and nice, and I enjoyed meeting so many different people. Overall, SARAS was a wonderful experience and I really enjoyed it during the short 3 weeks it lasted.

Stephanie

My experience at SARAS was interesting and very enlightening. Through the program, I was able to learn more about different medical fields. It provided me with information that would have been unlikely for me to receive from school. The occasional games and prizes kept the program interesting for me. However, I would have enjoyed the program even more if there were more trips like the one to the LIVH. Thank you so much for directing this program and allowing me to participate. I hope you have a great summer.

Sincerely,
Sungmin

My experience at SARAS 2014 was wonderful. Everyone was friendly, helpful, and funny. Everything was very organized and helped me actually learn during the summer. The lectures were surprisingly interesting and easy to understand. The hands-on labs that we did really helped supplement the material and I enjoyed them the most. SARAS definitely opened my eyes to all the careers in bio-medical sciences and gave me some insight into each. I enjoyed this program very much and would definitely recommend it to anyone interested in medicinal sciences or unsure of their future. Thank you for a great three weeks!

Sylvi

I really enjoyed coming to the SARAS program this year! I had more fun than I expected to, and it made getting up at 5:30 in the morning worth it! I learned so much from all the professors and doctors, and their lectures have really expanded my knowledge of medicine. I also had a lot of fun participating in the hands-on workshops and lunch was delicious every day! Thank you for an awesome 3 weeks at SARAS!

Sincerely,
Terrie

I had a very good experience at SARAS. It gave me a good exposure to various fields in science and broadened my horizons! I liked the lectures related toward orthopedics, maybe because I'm an athlete and orthopedics interests me. I also liked the workshops that were hands on like the CPR workshop, spinal tap workshop, microbiology workshop etc. I also absolutely loved the food the, variety was great! We never got bored with the food and everyday I would go up for seconds. The leaders were great! They gave great motivation and advice on my future after high school. Overall it was a wonderful experience to see more perceptions of science. I wish all of you good luck in preparing next year's SARAS program and hope the kids had as much fun as I did!

From,
Tejas

The three weeks that I spent at Stony Brook University for the SARAS program were nothing short of amazing. My eyes were opened to the exciting and fast-paced field of medical research which is something that I would like to invest my time in in the near future. I am now extremely motivated, as a result from coming into contact with intelligent and forward-thinking researchers and doctors, to do my best so I can achieve my dreams of someday becoming a physician. Thank you so much for this wonderful opportunity that I am sure has helped many others such as myself to see the diversity

and the promise that a career in medicine holds. It was a great experience to sit down in the lecture hall every morning and know that an exciting and instructive day would ensue. I will tell my friends about this opportunity so that they will be able to participate if they wish! Thank you for taking your time out of your busy schedule to put together this program! I am thinking about some research topics and I will contact you when I find the need for any guidance or mentoring.

Sincerely,
Teresa

My overall impression of the program would be that I learned about the many different professions in health care. This will help me choose the career path that is right for me, and I now understand that I still have plenty of time to decide what profession in health care I will choose. I especially enjoyed interacting with that robot patient that is used for training medical students in patient care. I had the opportunity to learn how to intubate a patient using this high tech patient simulator.

Thank you for this great opportunity,
Antonio

This is Vamshi from NJ. I am going to 10th grade next year and SARAS was one of the greatest experiences of my life. I attended for two weeks and had to leave early for my national archery tournament which I did very well in. Of the two weeks I spent in the program, I learned many new things from all spectrums of the medical world. I gained insight into the many fields of medicine and even some professions involving technology. I loved lectures about cardiology and the hands on experience we had with the equipment in the lab. I reached out to the expert and he explained to me the professions involving the heart. He gave me more insight into my dream job; cardiothoracic surgeon. He told me exactly how long it would take me and what the experience would be like. It will be a long ride, but I am ready to follow my dreams. Thank you for giving me one of the best experiences of my life. The experts I met, the kids I interacted with and the memories that came from this camp are invaluable. I will never forget this program and cannot wait to see what the future holds for not only me but all my fellow SARAS kids. Once again I cannot thank you enough and hope to meet with you again Srimi uncle.

Sincerely,
Vamshi

I thought that the camp was an extremely fun experience, and I certainly learned a lot about the field of medicines through the many experts that came to talk to us. It was an extremely entertaining two weeks for me, as I had to leave a few days early, and I made some new friends that I will keep for life. I had a lot of fun at SARAS and if I was given the opportunity to attend the program again, I would take it in a heartbeat.

Thanks,
Vinish

The SARAS summer program was by far the highlight of my summer! I have enjoyed every second of the program! You guys have blown away my expectations! I didn't feel a moment of regret of coming there. I had a blast and I wish I could come over and over and over again! But anyway I loved the whole program and there is not one word that could explain how excited I was when I found out that we were going to the veteran's home! I loved it there and I would one day like to revisit them. Thank you for this great opportunity and I hope all goes well in the program for years to come.

Yamini

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

I had a great time at the SARAS program this year. Initially, I didn't know what to expect since I believed that I would be listening to extremely long lectures about content I wasn't going to understand. However, nearly all of the talks were clearly explained and I learned about all of the different fields in the science and medical fields. The experts we met helped expose me to different types of research, technology, surgery, and other fields such as dentistry and ophthalmology. I

especially liked the hands-on workshops at the end of the day like the simulators, CPR, and the spinal taps. The trip to the Long Island Veterans Home was my favorite part of the SARAS program since I got to meet amazing heroes. The stretches in between talks were nice since sitting down for a few hours led to some stiffness, but the talks were very interesting. I really enjoyed the science fair poster session since we have one similar to that in our school but since my research project is still a work in progress, I hope that there is another science fair next year so I can participate in it. Thank you for organizing great lunch every day!

Christine.
