

## 2015-SARAS Parent's Feed Back

Hello Mr. Pentyla

My name is Konstantinos. I am the father of Elias. I would like to thank you and the faculty of STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY for producing a wonderful experience for all the students that came and spent few weeks in that program. According to my son he was thrilled to be a part of that program and everyday he came with something new to tell me that was happening in the lecture hall. He liked very much, the microbiology lecture and he wants to follow that path... I told him that there is a lot of studying to do and follow his dreams. In three weeks my son learned so many things about anthropology and he was explaining to us like he was into this... I can keep going and going but in few words I would like to say that his Involvement in SARAS was wonderful and learned a lot. Thanks again. Best regards  
Konstantinos

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It was good letting the kids learn more about their future careers and I'm happy that they had a food time at SARAS. I'm pleased to say that both of them liked it and we are very grateful for this program. Thank you Srin. Parents of Kris

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Dear Dr. Srinivas Pentyla,

My daughter, Kaitlyn, attended SARAS 2015 this summer and enjoyed it tremendously. I must say I was impressed with the compilation of different areas of medicine that were covered. She is interested in becoming a physician's assistant and this program gave her a great look into the different fields of medicine. She thought you were very funny, enjoyed when you addressed the group, and was very impressed with your patents and research! Yes, she did google you!! The lunches provided were very good and the flow of the program was well executed. I would recommend this program to any student interested in the medical field! Thank you for making my daughter's summer experience educative, enlightened and enjoyable! Sincerely,  
Sherrylyn

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Dear Dr. Pentyla,

Thank you for organizing the SARAS program at Stony Brook University. This program would not be a huge success without seamless coordination and efforts by assistants.

I noticed the program provided essential introduction in medical science in term of knowledge and clinical aspects by professionals / experts. Many lively presentations and lab visit have enhanced interest in pursuing career in health science and/or healthcare. My daughter has also got a taste of college life with residency at Irving College. This experience proved to be positive since she encountered other students who share common interests and shown her skills as a team player. She has demonstrated her abilities to be independent since this is first time to be away from home for long duration. As a medical interpreter myself, I appreciate your communication with participants on daily basis that gave transparency. Thank You.

I am very pleased with the program that I would recommend it to my associates, I would like to see this program continue to grow ( and regretting that I did not know about it when I was in high school ☺ ) and success in the days ahead. Thank You and please extend my thanks to your wonderful staff. Please enjoy your Summer holidays.

Frank

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Srini-

First, I'd like to thank you for coordinating another successful SARAS program. My daughter (Allison) enjoyed the program. I believe it gave her new insight into the wide variety of careers available in the sciences. The exposure to different disciplines and the hands-on activities provided a deeper understanding of what may be available in the future and will help guide her path forward as she completes her education. In addition, Allison also spoke highly of the activities that she can apply immediately such as the SAT preparation and CPR instruction. Allison is my second child to participate in SARAS- my daughter Emily attended two summers ago and I plan to have my third and last daughter attend in two years. The positive feedback I received from Emily convinced me to send Allison and Allison's experience only strengthens my thoughts that my other daughter should attend. Lastly, Allison also commented on how well the program was organized from the quality of the presenters, the activities, and even the lunches. I am truly grateful for you efforts and the time your guest lecturers put into this wonderful program. Best regards,

Andrew

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Dear Srini,

Yes, David like this program. He was excited about what he learned. He also enjoyed the food during lunch. He thought what he learned in this program will be benefit for his future life. In total, we gave this program a "5 star". You did a great job. Hope you guys continue to do this next year. Best wishes,

Aifang (David's mom)

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Dear Dr. Srinivas Pentyala,

Hi! I just wanted to let you know our reflections on our daughter, Myla's experience with your wonderful SARAS program. First of all, she couldn't wait for the very first day, she was so excited to attend your program. She truly loved her experiences there. Her favorite times were at all of the Workshop Classes. She got great hands-on training in a wide variety of areas, where she would never have experienced. Myla also met many new friends who have a lot in common with her. She dormed on campus during SARAS, so that gave her a new sense of maturity and independence. She had a fantastic time performing at the SARAS Got Talent Show! She shared the videos with us and she still smiles when she talks about it! Most of all, Myla really liked the way you made learning everything interesting and exciting, with a great sense of humor too! Myla's experience at SARAS solidified her desire to pursue Microbiology in College! She is hoping to be accepted to SUNY Stony Brook next fall 2016 to start her journey to becoming a Microbiologist! She said she would like to become a lab assistant and one day participate in research at Stony Brook Labs. Please let us know if you have any advice for her. Many thanks to you! Sincerely,

Myla's Parents

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

I want to congratulate you on arranging such a wonderful program. My daughter enjoyed it so much and had fun at the same time, that she wants to come back again next year. She had a whole new experience of science and medicine. Thanks again for a wonderful program and best of all your sense of humor, and at the end talent show was icing on the cake.

Aneeqa

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Dear Dr Pentyala,

We just want to say thank you for having our son James join the SARAS program. He loved it so much! It was both educational and fun at the same time. Medicine is his career goal and being in your program helped him reinforce his decision. He enjoyed learning from both you and your entire staff. He would like to return again next summer! James volunteers 2 days per week at stony brook OR 4th floor Tues and Thurs and would like to come and visit. Thank you again, Stephen and Anna

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Dear Srini,

Thank you for providing our son with a wonderful opportunity to get a glimpse into the field of medicine. On the night before the SARAS program was to start, Jack came to us and said he changed his mind and didn't want to go. He had discovered that most of his friends were just hanging out this summer and he didn't want to miss out on the "fun". Of course, we told him he made a commitment and would be attending the program. On day 2, Jack came home so excited to tell us all about tissue regeneration. He was inspired! This was the field he was going to go in to! Well, until he saw the surgery videos from the ophthalmologist or heard the lecture from the cardiologist, orthodontist, anesthesiologist, and so forth. Each day Jack was excited to tell us what he learned. He spoke of friends that he made and the fantastic lunches that he ate. It wasn't until yesterday, at the talent show, that we got a true understanding of how much he was enjoying himself. Watching him interact with the kids in the program and listening to them discuss that if they all went to Stony Brook they can meet up again, it brought a smile to our face. As parents, we were so happy that you created an environment in which the kids learned and at the same time they had fun. Our son spoke so highly of you and told us that you invented the dipstick. He was so impressed with your revolutionary accomplishment and he was honored to talk to someone with such a bright mind. THANK YOU!! For your enthusiasm and knowledge and of course your very humorous e-mails! Jack enjoyed the 3 weeks he spent at SARAS and we are so grateful to you and your colleagues for inspiring him:) Sincerely,

Barbara and Vincent

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I'm happy that my son joined SARAS. It shows that he is thinking about his future and what he wants to do. My son could have went on a vacation but he wanted to participate in the SARAS program. I think this program has brought him ahead of the game. He has several ideas about what he wants to do in college and what he wants to major in. I'm very proud that my son is taking the initiative and learning about all the options he can take advantage of. At first he didn't seem very excited about dorming in Stony Brook however, he said that he enjoyed his experience there. He said he made a lot of new friends in the program. My son also talked about the different medical research Stony Brook has done. I personally enjoyed listening to my son talk about the 3D printed organs. I hope this program continues to teach kids like my son about the future.

Bulent (Parent of Batuhan)

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Dear Mr. Pentyala,

My daughter, Erin, immensely enjoyed your program and now has a clearer idea of what she wants to pursue. SARAS was just what she needed to gain a head start for career options and a better view of the biomedical field. She told me she has learned a lot and I thank you for that. Regards,

Bernard

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Hello,

SARAS is a wonderful program for students that are interested in the medical field. As a parent, thank you for offering this opportunity to my daughter; she loved it. She would always tell me how fun and interesting some lectures were. I hope you continue this program for all future doctors, nurses, and everyone else out there, because the program is truly fascinating. Thank you!

-Han

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

It is rare that parents are given the opportunity to express their views on programs designed for High School Students, especially here in US. However, the fact that we, as parents get such an opportunity makes SARAS a unique program by itself. This fun filled interactive summer camp not only prepares these young & bright minds for college but also introduces them to the sciences in the fields of medicine and engineering. That is laudable. Additionally, the absolute deserve

mentions are the delicious luncheons which Anushka loved, the talent show which motivated the students to showcase their lovely performances, the field trip to the Veteran's home are all commendable efforts on yours and your team's part. I, as a parent, greatly appreciate the due diligence done by all the SARAS counselors and you as the director to organize and run this camp quite effectively. I'd like to thank you and every one of the advisors / counselors at the SARAS camp for such a great opportunity enabling Anushka to learn about the real complexities of the college application process and the college selection process. Thank you, Regards,

*Chandrani*

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Good afternoon Mr. Pentyala,

Olias enjoyed the SARAS program. It wasn't what he expected. Having spoken to him each day and getting the rundown of topics that were covered, my wife and I are impressed with the amount of information presented to the students. My wife is a surgical tech and an RN, and each afternoon when we would pick Olias up, he was able to have substantive conversations with her including some of the lingo. I do not know if Olias will look to medicine for his profession, but it will not be because he is unaware of what it entails.

Michael

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Thank you for organizing the SARAS program this summer that my son, Thomas, was so fortunate to attend. Thomas has expressed an interest in pursuing a medical career. There has been no better introduction to this career path than the exposure he has experienced these past three weeks. Thomas spoke very highly of the talented professionals who so generously donated their time to the SARAS program. I am so grateful to have these busy individuals find time in their hectic schedules to contribute to the program on a daily basis. You were able to motivate him to reach out to the speakers and to consider research opportunities for the future. I highly recommend this well-organized program and applaud the enthusiasm you provided these young people throughout the three weeks. Thomas and I thank you for this experience and hope our paths will cross again.

Colleen

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We do appreciate very much the concern you have for your students & the youth. It was so unforgettable because of you in the SARA program. Best Regards,

Connie/Eric's mom

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

My name is Cindy and my daughter Alexis participated in the 2015 SARAS program. It gives me great pleasure to say my daughter really enjoyed the program. She felt it was very informative, interesting and fun. Alexis also participated in a medical program at John Hopkins this summer and when she compared the two programs the SARAS program always came out on top. I want to say Thank you to you Dr. Pentyala and your staff for making learning fun and for making the kids interact with other kids they do not know. Also for the very funny informative emails I received on a daily basis while the program was in session. Please let me know if another program similar to SARAS is going to be available next year as I hope to sign Alexis up for the program. Best regards,

Cindy

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Hello Dr. Pentyala,

Thanks for including the parents on daily updates. I felt like I was participating along with my son. Being a senior, he had a lot on his plate this summer and wasn't too keen on participating in SARAS. I thought SARAS would be good for him since he has an interest in medical sciences but is not yet sure of the path. And, it's in our backyard! Though grudgingly, he admitted the sessions were informative and fun. Who knows? One of them

may even lead to a career path... Best of all, he made some new friends this summer. Thanks again for a great experience and the work you (and others who gave their time freely) did this summer. Best regards,  
Deepika (Parent of Jeevan)

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Dr. Pentyala,

I am truly grateful that my daughter, Kaitlyn, had the opportunity to take part in SARAS this summer, and I cannot thank you and your entire team enough for everything you have done to make such a wonderful program as this possible. Your dedication to enriching the minds of prospective physicians, surgeons, and researchers is nothing short of admirable. My daughter enjoyed the program immensely, and she came home every day excited and eager to share with us what she had learned at the day's session. The exposure she received to all of the various different fields of medicine throughout the program was truly unique, and something that she would not have received anywhere else. SARAS really opened her eyes to all of the different careers and opportunities in the medical field. The direction, guidance and insight the program provided her with is invaluable, and I am thrilled to say that my daughter has now confirmed what her academic and career goals are and has learned the path she needs to take in order to achieve them. Since the program, my daughter has even expressed MUCH interest in attending Stony Brook University, as she was very impressed by the amazing speakers she was given the privilege of listening to as well as their fascinating research. Thank you again for this incredible opportunity! I wish you and your team continued success in these commendable endeavors. With gratitude and admiration,

Deirdre

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Dr. Srinivas,

First of all, let me tell you that the program you coordinate is a great program. Not only for the chance the program gives students to learn about most of the medicine fields but also for quality of the great staff and faculty (including you) the kids had a chance to interact. I want to thank you (specially) and all your faculty and staff for the great moments you guys shared with my son and all the kids. This has been a great life and educational experience for them. My son and we choose this program since my son is interested in studying something in the medical field but we never thought that we will have fun and will meet kids that share his passion and interests. I can say that my son has a better understanding now of what he will choose in College and all this thanks to this great program. Keep up with the great job you are doing and hopefully one day perhaps my son can have you as his teacher at Stony Brook. Also a special thanks to the people who donated the food all these days and lastly thanks for the very informative session you provided us in the last day about college admission, it was very helpful. Best regards,

Eduardo

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

My son Christopher participated in the 2015 SARAS program. After every session, he called me excited to tell me all about what he learned that day. The program further enhanced his desire to be a physician, which is really all I could ask for. Christopher enjoyed hearing from all the experts and all the hands-on activities the program provided. I'm not going to lie...he loved the lunches too! The greatest compliment I can offer you is that when we were driving home the last day, he turned to me and said, "Thanks mom for signing me up, I really had a great experience!" Sincerely Yours,

Eileen

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2015 SARAS was one of the best summer programs that Brandon has attended. He had a general idea of the medical field and what it consists of. However, SARAS had doctors, professors, and biologists from different fields who were able to outline the different medical disciplines. While Brandon initially was looking solely into the field of cardiology medicine, he is now willing to look into other medical areas that he finds just as interesting and just as challenging. The lectures were thorough and very informative. He met lifelong friends with whom he shares the same interest. The facility was comfortable. The food was excellent and the dorm rooms were nice and clean. We thank you for your excellent program which is challenging, informative, thought provoking, professionally operated and diverse. Sorry that I cannot add anything additional about the third week in particular. He was more relaxed had more confidence and asked if he could attend next

year's program. I told him that I wasn't sure because it may be the same program. So in other words, the program was a hit with Brandon. It was educational and the experience is definitely something that will be a determinative factor in his career choice.

Eva

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Hello Dr. Pentyala,

I just want to take this opportunity to thank you for your amazing program. My son William learned a lot. Your program inspired him to go into the healthcare field. After attending the program, he got a clearer idea about the medial field. In addition to the program itself, he enjoyed the university environment, made many new friends and had a wonderful time during his stay at the campus. He is going to apply Stony Brook for undergraduate. Best regards!

Fannie

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My daughter gained great information about science. I will sign up my son next year also, thank you for such a great program.

Gilda

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Hello Dr. Pentyala,

My name is Givi and I am the father of Ruth. She completed the SARAS program which was offered at Stony Brook University. I don't know how to adequately express my gratitude for giving my daughter the opportunity to attend such an educational and well organized program. In addition she had the ability to share her interests in medicine with her peers. As Ruth describes, it was a wonderful learning experience, friendly environment, and fun as well. I am very appreciative that a program like this exists for young children who are interested in medicine and are sure that they make knowledgeable decisions in pursuing their career. Thanks again. Cordially,

Givi

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Anjuli really enjoyed SARAS program. It was very informative. She enjoyed performing in the last day. We really appreciate all your efforts.

Arvinder

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Hi Srimi:

Thanks to SARAS TEAM for hosting Shemar at this summer's Program. The program was an eye opener for him that gave him a broader perspective of how the medical field operates and that there are various aspects of the medical field. He has much clearer understanding of how the human body functions; specially the functions of the heart; learning how to do CPR which is a useful skill if he finds himself in a position to be helpful to others. He enjoyed the program and the interaction with his peers. He has also made new friends. Thank you.

Marcia

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Dear Srinivas,

My daughter, Xinyi, attended SARAS in the summer of 2015, which is a precious experience for her career, I believe. It's good to expose children to future potential careers when they're very young to get them thinking about what they want to do for the rest of their lives, and I think this program does a wonderful job of it. I was very happy to hear about all the activities she did, such as visiting the veteran's home and learning CPR. It's amazing that everyone was able to cram so much activity and so many experts into such a short period of time. I heard the food was good, too! With best regards,

Xinguo

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Hi I'm Yoonho's mom. I would like to thank Dr. Srinivas for giving my son a wonderful opportunity to learn about medical program. He learned a lot about medical related science and was very pleased with all the lectures. Also my son made a

lot of new friends. I would also like to thank stony brook university for holding a great program like SARAS to teach our kids about medical field. I hope you guys keep on doing this program for the next generations to come. Sincerely,  
Hyejung

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Thank you so very much for offering this wonderful program. My daughter gained so much insight on the many occupations in the medical field. Through this program, she had the opportunity to experience many hands on activates. She came home every day excited about what she learned. Your emails were very much appreciated as well as your sense of humor. I would highly recommend your program for all students who have an interest in the sciences. Thanks again. Sincerely,  
Janice

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It was a lifelong blessing to have had the honor of having your passionate dedication for medicine and for Farah to have been a recipient of your trusted guidance. I would be extremely grateful, if the expert on regenerative medicine might be available to be her mentor. The most important part of this program was the fact that Farah loves medicine and her passion lies in this field...her area of specialty will be discovered progressively and I will continue to support her research towards that self-discovery. You have personally and single-handedly helped both of us begin a journey of another chapter in our lives and I believe my best memories of my life have officially begin today. So, it is with deepest gratitude and sincerity that I congratulate you on the triumphant success of your program. I hope your program next year will continue to encompass much more challenging areas of critical thinking for them to consider which might help the natural sifting out process. I was able to gather some additional information after the meeting and I am sure we will make more visits, as is needed. This is only the beginning, baby steps...the journey is lifelong and it has the promise of an adventure! There is so much more I would like to share. I am also growing into my professional interest of healthcare. So, it's a lovely way to create a deeper bond with Farah. The future, no one knows, but I do know, Farah's will be distinctively unique and interesting. I hope to keep in touch with you. You are so very humble, kind and your patience is worthy of sainthood!..,lol.., Meanwhile, I am so glad that I have a fellow cattle cart!.., Take the time to enjoy some time for yourself...you more than deserve it! Much heartfelt blessings to you!  
Janiffa

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Hi,  
Thank you so much for coordinating such a wonderful program for our children. Dana has a good exposure to health and science fields. It gave her a better understanding of what each occupation does and narrow down her career choices. The complimentary lunch was very much appreciated. Overall, it was a wonderful experience. Thank you.  
Kimberly

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Dear Dr. Srinivas Pentyala,  
Thank you for your time and effort with this summer program. You have been a great inspiration to Kristal on her quest to become a doctor (I hope). Even though she is only a rising sophomore. Thanks to your great personality and humor, SARAS at Stony Brook was not as scary as she imagined. During the 3 weeks of time from being scared to wanting to get up early in the morning to get on the LIRR says a lot about how well you and your program bonded with my daughter. I am glad she chose to attend your program this summer. Hearing her talk about what she had done that day was a joy to my day of boring work. I wish you the best for all the years to come and continue your success in this program. Should you have any future interesting programs, please feel free to let us know. Thanks again. Best Regards,  
Joe (Kristal's father).

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Dear Srini, (aka Uncle),

This is Ruby, Julia's mom. I wanted to be there the last day, but as it goes, Julia forbade me to attend, due to the fact that I would make her that much more nervous during her participation in the talent show. But I did enjoy clips. As a first time participant, and getting the feedback from Julia, and your daily announcements (I looked so forward to them at 3:47 p.m. each day) we were very happy and impressed with the SARAS program. Julia was excited and I received daily updates as we drove home, on all the speakers, what she learned, what she was not interested in as far as a career, all the hands on labs and on site participations, and what she had for lunch. I must add, in speaking with you briefly on the phone back in March when I was registering Julia, you were very informative, and I felt then, the program was very much organized, and you did not disappoint. This program was a bit unique and not your typical college internship/college summer camp program for college credits, yet I feel it was an invaluable life lesson to the many careers opportunities out there for our kids. All I can say is that I wish I could have done it sooner. I appreciate your humor and attention to detail and made what was a little nerve racking first time experience for Julia (taking trains, meeting schedules) a memorable one. Hope to have Julia cross paths with SARAS organizers and Stony Brook in the future. (Maybe in the operating room?). Sincerely,  
Ruby

Hi, I am writing regarding my daughter Emma. First I must tell you that I am a Stony Brook alumni from way, way back, and was very excited at the prospect of my 15 - year-old daughter experiencing Stony Brook as well. I am delighted to report that Emma enjoyed the program and learned some things she deemed important enough to share with me! I believe the experience has encouraged her interest in medicine. She also really loved staying on campus in the dorm and bonded with other girls in the SARAS program. Thank you for giving kids such a great opportunity.  
Julie

Hello Dr. Pentyala,

Thank you to you and all involved in this year's SARAS program! It was a wonderful educational experience for the students. My compliments to you and your staff for the in-depth and thoughtful coordination of the program each and every day. My daughter, Sarah, loved the program! The environment was happy, positive, academic, thought-provoking, and stimulating. Every day Sarah would come home and fill us in with the speakers and the content of the lectures. Sarah has great interests in science and is also involved with the InStar program at Ward Melville High School. As she is currently deciding on a research project, this program was a great opportunity for her to learn about many different areas of research that are currently taking place within the field of Medicine and Science. We were most impressed to know that the caliber of speakers were all seasoned physicians and professors, and all experts within their fields. This gave such a level of credibility, knowledge, and professionalism to the program and demonstrated the integrity of Stony Brook as a teaching institution. As a parent, I was more than pleased at the level of education and exposure Sarah received on a daily basis. I would also like to thank you, especially, for your commitment and the time you spent sending emails out regularly to fill us in on the day and to prepare us for the following day. It was exciting for the students and the parents, and most appreciated that we were all very well informed. We also enjoyed receiving the weekly pictures and thank you for that. It was nice to see the learning environment that the students were in, and also to see what delicious lunches they had every day! This just added to make their day even more enjoyable. In closing, thank you again for everything. We are very fortunate to have such an enlightening program for high school students. With gratitude and appreciation,  
Josephine

Dearest Dr. Pentyala. I felt many times through the last three to four weeks, the desire to reach out and thank you for sharing yourself with our children and therefore enlightening them to so many new things. I cannot possibly imagine how you will be able to find a replacement, as you are clearly one of a kind. Thus, thank you for opening my daughter's mind to new ideas, cultural perspectives and opportunities. This was definitely worth her time and we are grateful she had the chance to learn.

Very sincerely,  
Lenore



Dear Dr. Srini,

I am so pleased to write you about Adriana's experience in SARAS. We are full of gratitude for this program, as it was eye opening. For a young person who aspires to be an MD, solidifying those aspirations through these types of experiences are priceless. Each day I would ask Adriana how the program was and she would recount each session; along with her commentary. Even the sessions she may not have enjoyed as much served as a learning experience in knowing what she truly doesn't have an interest in. This can prove to be as important as knowing what you do like. Adriana also volunteers at Stony Brook and has met a couple of the presenters from the program in her travels. She was so excited to say hello to them and they were also glad to reciprocate. What a fantastic way to learn how to build relationships. Being a business person, regrettably not scientifically or medically inclined (Although I have made some on point diagnoses myself!), I was thrilled to hear about what the demonstrations and lectures consisted of. I learned a thing or two myself! So Dr. Srini, I thank you for this program and I sincerely hope and expect it will continue for years to come. Sincerely,  
Lilly

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Dear Srinivas,

Just want to let you know I was very excited to hear about this program and at first Kelsie did not want to give up any of her summertime. I am an RN and told her about some of the interesting things in the medical/scientific world she would learn about and it sparked her interest. Most days she came home eager and excited to tell me about her day. She seemed mostly interested in the 3D bio printing. We appreciate the time you and the staff took to give her some insight. Thank you. Sincerely,  
Lisa

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Dear Dr. Pentyla,

Wow, What an impressive program! Thank you so much for giving my daughter such a wonderful and educational experience with SARAS. Selene enjoyed the program very much. The lectures and workshops the kids are exposed to are so informative and crucial to these young kids who are thinking about exploring the world of medicine. I'm grateful such a program is offered and in an affordable way. She met some great kids and I'm sure they will remain in contact. I appreciate and enjoyed seeing all the photos you sent to us. May I add, the lunches looked very appetizing. Thank You SARAS, Dr. Pentyla, Volunteers and The Contributors. I hope someday my daughter will be able to give back to SARAS. Best,  
Selene's Mom

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Dear Dr. Srinivas Pentyla,

Thank you for giving my son, Michael, the opportunity to attend the SARAS 2015 program. I thought the program was very well run and organized. I know both Michael and I appreciated having the schedule in advance and those daily email really kept him prepared for the next day's activities. My son will be a junior in High School next year and is very interested in science but was not sure about a medical path. After attending the program he is much more open minded to working in the field of medicine in some way. He was very enthusiastic about the lecture on Regenerative Medicine a Viable Solution to Organ Shortage.....he could not stop talking about that one! He also liked (or mentioned at home which trust me means a lot because he doesn't tell me much) the lectures on Insight into Sight and Idea to Invention. So I thank you again for the wonderful program and getting my son excited about something new. He also thought the other students were really nice which was great. And did I mention how much he loved the lunches? Warm Regards,  
Mary

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Hello Dr. Srini,

I would like to thank you and your wonderful SARAS program colleagues for your great educational experience you had given my son. Ethan was very excited and looked forward to this program and was not disappointed one bit once it started, it met all of his expectations and beyond. Ethan came back home every day with enormous amount of information to do with all the different medical field aspects, and had spoken of it very enthusiastically. I can see his eyes light up with excitement speaking of his the day at Stony Brook, of all the new worlds revealed to him. This program had made his summer!! I do think he will go into the medical field in the future, it was just a thought earlier this year, but after three

weeks of SARAS I think his mind is clearly made up, just not yet sure of which direction in the world of medicine he will take. I thank you so much for this program, I really think you created the next excellent doctor whom you'll be proud of one day, nonetheless, I hope Ethan will get to work with you some day in the future as well. Enjoy the rest of the summer, whatever is left of it. ☺

Michal

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My daughter Emily said it was a wonderful experience. She learned a lot and it also guided her in the direction she wants to pursue Facial reconstruction. Thank you very much.

Jennifer & Michael

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This was a rewarding experience for my daughter, Kena. The program gave her a deeper insight of the science field and she was able to determine what area in the sciences she wanted to pursue in her college years. I would highly recommend this program. Thank you,

Nadege

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Dear Dr. Srinivas,

SARAS was a very influential and life changing experience for Aman. Without this program he would not be able to understand the foundations of what research is, and how to start. Aman has realized that doing research is perfect, not just for his learning style, but also for his goals. His experience with SARAS has helped to deepen his interest in the medical field. This was not only the starting point, but also a support to every step in the way. We would like to thank you for giving Aman an opportunity to participate in this program. Regards,  
Aman's Parents

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We were very excited for our son Noah to participate in the SARAS program this past summer. This was a great opportunity for him because it increased his knowledge and opened up the world of health sciences for him. The program also allowed him to meet new people, create new friendships and experience living on a college campus for the first time. After the three weeks of going to the SARAS program, I can definitely say that he enjoyed his time with the program this summer. Sincere thanks to Dr. Srinivas Pentyala and the department of Anesthesia at Stony Brook on hosting an amazing program for the kids. Thanks for everything you have done for the children that attended the SARAS program this summer.

Nathalie & Greg

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

I am very pleased with your SARAS program. It gave my son, Arthur, a good opportunity to learn about the various areas of the medical field. I hope that it will help him in pursuing a career in medicine. He is looking forward to study medicine at Stony Brook. Thank you,

Olga

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My daughter, Olufisayo, recently attended the SARAs program this year. I have enjoyed the experience of having my child participate in the program and have seen a positive change in her confidence and the clarity she has gained as to what she may want to pursue as a profession. This program not only provided a fun way to learn about the medical field but it also forged friendships with people who have similar goals. We have become close to many other participants in the program. I believe that SARAs not only equips children with the knowledge needed to make the right choice for their career in science but it goes even farther and helps them find their passion. We really enjoyed the SARAS experience and would even send our child again next year. Thank you for providing a very productive and fruitful summer. Sincerely,

Olutunde

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Dear Srini,

Gabrielle had an amazing three weeks at SARAS. She has been waiting for months for the program to start, and was not disappointed. From my perspective, it was highly organized, exposed the students to many aspects of medicine and research, and allowed Gabrielle a brief insight to what she hopes her future holds. The emails full of information prior to the start of the program were extremely helpful, any questions we had were answered before the program began. I also appreciated the daily summary emails. These along with Gabrielle's stories about her day made our discussions about SARAS that much more interesting. She enjoyed your sense of humor and even though she was learning advanced material, you made SARAS both informative and fun. I count my daughter lucky to have been able to spend three weeks learning from such intelligent people and getting to see firsthand what education and hard work can accomplish. She spoke highly about her days at SARAS. A few that stand out to me are...- epidurals, especially the lab; -stents' -lessons on germs - we're reminded daily; -spinal taps, especially that you developed test paper to make sure it's not spinal fluid. She really enjoyed watching the movies of actual surgeries -she tells everyone if you ever need brain surgery, she met the best brain surgeon. Gab was at physical therapy the other day and someone there was talking about a family member needing brain surgery, she wanted to recommend him. The day the ophthalmologist came, Gab explained to us that it's a 100% guarantee that we will get cataracts someday. Now when she asks her sister what she's doing...her sister says "just waiting around for my cataracts!" -realizing how much of an impact on patient care you have as a researcher. There were so many highlights of the program, I couldn't list them all. Gab learned so much from the lectures, and really enjoyed the workshops. What an opportunity for high school students to handle and use real life saving medical equipment. The lab safety classes are going to help her as she finishes her high school and AP science classes. The support and generosity of the local businesses that provided lunch was incredible. I appreciate the delicious meals that the students were offered each day. Gab has wanted to attend Stony Brook since she was four years old. At that time her sister was a SB student. This program allowed her to experience science lectures and labs in a true college setting. The only problem now is she doesn't want to go back to high school, she just wants to go to Stony Brook! In closing, this program has helped encourage Gab's dream of attending Stony Brook and becoming a surgeon. I know SARAS was a success when on the last day she said "I can't wait to go again next year!" Thank you to you and your staff for offering this wonderful program and helping to encourage the next generation of scientists.

Patti

P.S. I only wish there was "bring your parent to SARAS day!"

It gives me great pleasure to be associated with SARAS (through my son who participated). My son kept me updated every day's learnings including delicious food served throughout the program. It was a nice program for kids completing high school very particularly making best use of their summer holidays. I thank one and all (by name) who are associated with this program (organizers, sponsors, speakers, students) making this one more successful SARAS. Finally, I personally thank you for giving this opportunity for my son.

-Prahallada

Hi Dr Srini, First of all thank you very much for all your efforts for the great success of the SARAS program. My son Karthik, really enjoyed being part of it. He is now missing it:)) Regards,

Prasanna

Hello Mr. Pentyala,

This is Puneet (Anjali's dad). I am glad Anjali attended the SARAS program this year. It was very beneficial and educational for her and she enjoyed every moment. It also cemented her love of Neuroscience research. She also made really good friends and has been staying in contact with them. Thank you for encouraging her to speak to your colleague. She has met with him once already after SARAS and is planning to speak to him when he returns from vacation. Thanks again for making it a wonderful experience for the kids. Regards,

Puneet and Ruth

Dr. Pentyala,

My daughter Rachel really enjoyed the program. She found some of the sessions more interesting than others, but she definitely learned a lot and was glad she went. She said she enjoyed the sessions in the first two weeks the most. The program itself was great and Rachel got a lot out of it.

Angela

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Dr. Pentyala,

First of all -- congratulations and thank you for putting together such a wonderful program. SARAS was the highlight of our Samir's summer. We had heard about the program through friends but did not know exactly what to expect. Needless to say our son was skeptical about spending three weeks of his summer vacation listening to medical professionals talk about their respective fields. As most 15 year olds he would rather be hanging out with friends or playing tennis. His view changed very quickly at the start of the program. Within a couple of days we noticed that Samir was enjoying not just what he was learning but also the social aspect of meeting likeminded kids from other school districts and making new friends. He particularly enjoyed the following sessions:

- 1) Cancer
- 2) Anesthesiology
- 3) 3D printing of organs
- 4) Limb regeneration
- 5) Synthesizing artificial body parts

The trip to veterans' facility was interesting. Overall Samir learnt a lot and we are grateful to you and your staff for organizing such a wonderful learning experience for kids. One last thing -- lunch was a big hit !! Thanks

Raj and Vinnie

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Thank You Dr. Pentyala for all of your hard work and dedication towards the SARAS students. My daughter has talked about all the fun stuff that she has done including the labs and getting a lot of toys from you. I appreciate the informative emails with some humor. I am glad my daughter got this rare opportunity to come to SARAS and make new friends and learn what is ahead for her. Thank you once again, sir. Sincerely,

Raja

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Dear Dr. Srinivas,

This is Ravindran, Megha's Dad. I would like to thank you for the wonderful experience my daughter had during the last 3 weeks at Stony Brook, at the SARAS workshop organized by you. Greatly appreciate your hard work, dedication and for all those follow up and update emails that kept flowing by on a daily basis. My child's over all opinion about the program was - "excellent". She enjoyed it. The main points that came out of it- She has a rough idea on what she wants to pursue now - She likes ophthalmology (this might change, but at least that shows the depth in which you had the classes and workshops going). The faculty and professors were very knowledgeable and friendly. It was lot of fun. She made lot of friends. Best of all - They participated in the talent competition. Last but not least - The food was excellent. Thank you for all your efforts for making this program a success. I would like to thank all staff and faculty who participated in the program and dedicated their valuable time for these kids. Once again, thank you,

Ravindran

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Dear Dr. Srinivas,

First I want to thank you for taking the time from your busy schedule to continue this program. Nick found the program interesting and very informative. Every day he learned something new and came home with some fun facts. I am going to do whatever I can to help him succeed in all his future endeavors, and exposure to programs like this will undoubtedly help. Thank you again. Regards,

Ron

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Thanks Dr. Srinivas,

I heard my daughter, Jihye had learned so many things from SARAS. Also she had some good friend and I think she had good experience for 3 weeks. I think she got lots of information about various medical parts through this SARAS program and she wants to become a medical worker. I want to say "thanks for your kind support for my child" all of you, especially you. Thanks and we are willing to join your program if we have chance again.

Doohee (Jihye's Dad).

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Dear Srinj,

Aliya really enjoyed the SARAS program. She found most of the presentations interesting, and she loved all of the wonderful lunches! She also thought that you were a wonderful coordinator, and she loved your sense of humor. I really appreciated all of your email updates and pictures. Teenagers don't always share a lot with their parents, and you kept us informed. I also want you to be aware of what the residential kids are going through. I would highly recommend SARAS to others. Thank you so much for all that you do for these students. Aliya had a wonderful experience in SARAS, thanks to you and all of your volunteer colleagues! Sincerely,

Robin

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Dear Dr. Pentyala:

I want to thank you for giving my son one of most rewarding experience at the SARAS program. Jonathan was brave enough to take on the SARAS program by himself without any of his buddies. SARAS proved to be fun and exciting every day. From the first day when Jonathan, I could tell by his stories about the day, that he was intrigued. Jonathan not only learned a lot of new information, but he also found wonderful new friends. He looked forward to going to SARAS every day .Your program has improved immensely since a few years ago when my son Michael attended your program. Michael had a wonderful experience as well, and it was because of his experience that Jonathan decided to attend SARAS. You bring a lot of spice to the program and it would not be the same without you. Thank you,

Roya

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Dr. Pentyala,

I am glad Esmeralda participated in the SARAS program. She always wanted to help other people and being in the medical field is a great way to do that. The SARAS program exposed her to many areas of the medical field. She was very excited about all the topics she was introduced to; she learned many new things. The program also helped her decide which area of the field she's most interested in. I am thankful to the doctors and other staff that make this program possible. It is such a great experience for those interested in the field or undecided about which area of the field they would like to be in. Thanks to all of you! Sincerely,

Ruth

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My daughter Mahnoor participated in SARAS-2015 program. When I signed her up for this, I was not sure whether she will like this 3 week long program or not. According to the brochure those all lectures sessions looked like that they were designed for undergraduate level students and my daughter just passed 9th grade. I knew that hands on training session would be fun way to learn specially CPR, lumbar puncture and making slides. So she started going to SARAS and each day when she came back, I asked her how did it go? and each day she replied not bad and returned happily which was kind of surprise to me. She really enjoyed SARAS program lasted three weeks which killed her time of boring summer vacations at home. She told stories of SARAS to her sister who is definitely going to join this program next summer. I hope next year this program might have something different so I can put both of my daughters together and they will get a lot of information about healthcare professions which will help them down the road in selecting a good career for their future.

Mahnoor's Mom

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

I am writing to thank you for the experience my daughter had in the SARAS program. In the beginning she was reluctant to go as she knew no one. Before long she came home referring by name to friends she had met. We enjoyed hearing of each day's presentations and, of course, what she had for lunch! I find SARAS to be a wonderful program that provides an opportunity for high school students to get exposure to various areas of the medical world. Through the various seminars, my daughter had a chance to see what piqued her interest as she chooses an area of study. Thank you for providing this opportunity! Sincerely,

Sara

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Dear SARAS Program Team:

SARAS program was suggested by one of our family from who came to visit us in Virginia. She suggested, if my daughter is interested in biological science, SARAS would be a good program for her to attend. I immediately check the program details on the website. Even though, we really liked the program description, we were little bit concerned, since our daughter never stayed away from us and she have to stay 3 weeks in dorm to attend the program. Since our friends gave us a strong recommendation, we decided to move forward with the registration. Our family drove to New York to drop off my daughter to the program. Before we left, I was really scared that my daughter might call us next day to or so to pick her up. But my surprise, she was absolutely happy since the day 1. She made lot of friends and busy all the time. Whenever I called, she was all in excitement and used to explain what has been covered that day. I was really amazed by the topics they covered and that way they made it interesting to the kids. Especially Mr. Pentyala's email was very informative which details about the topics that has been covered. I liked the way the program was structured and organized. My daughter came home with a whole new experience and her keenness towards biological science has been doubled. I am really happy to suggest this program to any parent whose kids are interested in biological sciences. Finally, I am looking forward to put my younger daughter into the program in 4 years. I am sure this program will provide the career guidance that lots of kids are looking for.

Sujatha & Ramesh

Happy Parents!!!

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Dr. Pentyala,

On paper, SARAS looked interesting. Our son Andrew was intrigued. But, being somewhat cautious parents, when we dropped him to Stony Brook we made it clear that he could come home if needed. That caution was so unnecessary!! What a FANTASTIC program. Every evening Andrew downloaded his observations of the day and detailed what he was learning – patent filing, epidurals, sleep disorders, ortho, etc. etc. From one day to the next his excitement seemed to grow. He has made connections to things he has read, has learned in other activities, and to school. He told his cousins about how great the program is in case they might want to look into it. And his desire to do well in the coming school year has intensified! The formula that you have devised for the program – with a mixture of lecture, hands-on, group discussion – is brilliant. The combination of stretch topics (career paths) and immediately relevant topics (SAT prep) is motivating. The material was delivered at the right level and allayed our concern about whether he would be able to track with the content. I congratulate you on running such a successful program, and thank you for helping to open our son's eyes very widely. Thank you!

Colleen

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Dear Dr. Srinivas:

First I'd like to thank your team for putting together this program that gives the children opportunity to meet and listen to the experts firsthand. I think the great variety of medical/ para medical fields presented was great. Second food options and affordability of this experience was great. Third my children enjoyed the interactive portions of the series. The veteran's home visit was good. The test prep sessions were also very good. Overall we are glad we sent our daughters Nandita & Sucheta to SARAS 2015. We will recommend this camp to others interested in the sciences. Regards,

Suhani

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This is Venkat, father of Anoo. SARAS is a wonderful chance for students going into the medical field to learn about all of the different job opportunities in the health care as they could be unaware of such information at this point. My daughter was very curious and excited every day to learn and do something new. She would come home with stories of doing lab work and having learned about forensic science. I want to thank Srinivas for giving Anoo the opportunity to participate in SARAS in such late notice.

Venkat

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

I have heard about this program for a while from friends around, but it is more impressive when you join the program. I am surprised about the significant influence that SARAS program had on Michael's thought for being a doctor. The program gave him a great opportunity to have exposure to current biomedical science and technology, biomedical research, patient care presented by medical doctors or health care providers. Some cutting edge research on Stem cells and hands on technique like CPR really inspired him. The "real doctors" from Stony Brook University/Hospital who talk about their working experience, specialties or medical career can be good role models for young kids who would like to be doctors. Thanks very much for your great efforts to provide a good way for learning with fun during the summer. I would strongly recommend this program to those who would like to head into the biomedical field.

-Michael's Parents

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Jessica's mom: I am very happy that my child could attend the SARAS program because now it is easier for her to narrow down her choices for college majors.

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