

## 2019-SARAS: Parents feedback

Dear Doctor Srini Pentyala, I'd like to thank you for coordinating a successful SARAS program. My son Matthew really enjoyed the program. It gave him a new insight into the wide variety of careers available in the field of medicine. The exposure to different disciplines and the hands-on workshops provided a deeper understanding and a clearer picture towards what he wants to do in the future. I remembered one-time Matthew shared a story with me about one of the presenters' speeches about why he chose to be a doctor, it really touched him, the career in medical area really needs the person with big love, big heart and passion. I am thankful the program was organized from the different presenters so well, also the activities and delicious lunches.

Shi

---

I am the mother of Gillian, one of the 2019 SARAS participant. I personally like the program. It gives the students the total awareness of what medical field is all about. Gillian enjoyed the three weeks with you. She is now very interested in surgical robotics.

Thank you for the giving the hopeful future doctors the opportunity to learn.

Sincerely,  
Glenda

---

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

SARAS was an incredible experience for my daughter, Sabrina. She learned so much about the necessities and components of different medical fields and the preparation needed to enter each field. Further, she was even educated about functions that everyone should know when an emergency does occur. This experience, knowledge, and inspiration can only be delivered by SARAS. I am grateful for the opportunities and education that SARAS offered my daughter. These lessons helped ignite her passion for scientific research and performance in a medical field even more. It was amazing to see her so intrigued and in awe every day after the program because of all she learned and all she wanted to share with me. SARAS is an incredible summer program.

Sincerely,  
Xiu

---

Dear SARAS program administrators,

This program really helped my daughter find her way to what she wants to be in life. She came home and told me every day what she learned about and whether or not she was interested. Sometimes I would see her become enthusiastic about some topics and workshops that she participated in that day. This helps a lot because my daughter, Diana, will be attending her Junior year of high school. It gives me such relief to know that she will be entering one of the toughest years of high school with an understanding of where she wants to take her education. I owe it all to the wonderful people who gave my daughter the opportunity to attend the program. Thank you again!

---

I wanted to thank you for your time with my son Aameen this Summer. We had heard great things about the program and truly were not disappointed. First off, your daily correspondence was wonderful! It kept parents in the loop and give us so much info that we were able to talk to our children in detail about their day and have a good discussion. Since not all teens are talkers, without this correspondence we wouldn't have been able to relate to the program much with them. I loved how you had so many different fields of medicine available for the

kids to hear about and explore. Our favorite aspect was the hands-on practice of things (cpr, lumbar puncture etc.) I feel more things of hands on nature keep the kid's attention and embeds these practices into their minds. SAT reviews were also wonderful. It was very helpful. Thank you again for leading such a comprehensive, successful program.

Sumer

---

Thank you Dr. Pentyala for all your efforts, kind words and funny messages as well! My daughter Diana had an amazing experience in Stony brook this summer. She was happy to take the train with her friends every morning to SBU! The different subjects that were touched upon were beyond my expectations. Diana was a very happy girl when she arrived home every afternoon! Thank you for all your efforts and showing our children the many different areas of science research!

Helen

---

Dear Dr Pentyala,

I have to congratulate you for conducting yet another successful SARAS season. Your enthusiasm is unmatched. Ten years back, my son Harshil attended the SARAS sessions and was thoroughly impressed. Ten years later, he wanted to ensure that my daughter HIMANI attended the sessions as well. My daughter had all praises for the lecture series that gave her an insight into the world of medicine. Sessions like these, lights a spark in these kids to become future leaders in science and technology. Quite honestly, it is hard for me to point out any negatives. I want to thank you once again for all the pains you take, year after year to arrange the SARAS sessions. Best wishes.

Anil.

---

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

I want to tell you how wonderful the SARAS program was. This program cemented my daughter's desire to enter the medical field. She came home every day excited and full of enthusiasm about her day. She loved your sense of humor (I am not just saying that!!) and looked forward to the next day's schedule. I loved that she was exposed to so many different areas of medicine, diverse people and food!

Thank you so much!!!

Jo Anne

---

Dear Dr. Srinivas Pentyala,

Thank you very much for the opportunity my daughter Ankitha got through SARAS. Thank you for organizing such a wonderful program and your leadership. I really wanted to write a very long mail to beat you in your own game and as a revenge for making me read all your long mails. But not really getting time, and I can't wait any longer to reply to you. Fun apart let me quickly and briefly come to the points. Please take some aspects of my response as feedback, some as request and some as suggestion.

My daughter Ankitha is a Math double honors student going to enter 10th grade now. While she has been saying that she wanted to become a doctor in future, I was proud as well as skeptic. Proud because she saw the aspect of helping people out of their suffering. Skeptic because she never had the exposure to the touch/feel/see/smell aspect of what a Doctor's day is like or while studying for medicine. From that point of view, I would say, SARAS was a huge success. She enjoyed the program very much and learned a lot. I attended the last day program and had the opportunity to listen to you and the admission dean speaking about Stony Brook and it's history rooted in science, technology and medicine. By education, I'm an Electronics Engineer followed by an MBA from IIT Mumbai India. By profession, I'm a software engineer. In general, I try to keep abreast of the developments happening around in the technology world and how it impacts every other domain especially in the field of medicine. Starting from mid-eighties there has been huge growth in the number of sophisticated equipment and devices introduced to medical field for diagnosis due to the advancements in the field of electronics engineering.

New academic programs trying to combine different domains like bio medical engineering were introduced in universities across globe, benefits of which are now evident if we look at the number of sophisticated medical equipment companies and specialized people available from R&D to after sales support. Today, as you know, the trend is, diagnose using data, or called Artificial Intelligence. Even though it is in the beginning stage, not a day passes without an article which talks about AI's use in some or other aspect of medicine. But soon this field is going to explode. Do you think the industry will have the RIGHT people to work in this sector who can be called authority to make the right calls? If someone were to become a Doctor here, to get that stamp of MD and getting license to touch a patient, start practicing, we all know how many rigorous years of specialized studies and training one undergoes. Is that true about people in the supporting roles? those in the non-licensed professions, especially software and stuff like that? Absolutely not. There could be hundreds of programs coming up across universities specializing in Artificial Intelligence. Bright high schoolers like my daughter who are good in Math will join some of these programs. They will graduate and get good jobs and will pick some domains to work and apply their skills. Being a software guy and industry expert, I see multiple problems there. In software it is easy for people to switch domains from manufacturing to retail or finance or health care based on job market trend. Most of the time there is no need for the person to know the big picture related to his work, it is just code and data for them. That is my concern for tomorrow - the best brains in the artificial intelligence technology working with Doctors who are committed early on to just one domain for their entire life, that is medicine or health care. My proposal: Why can't we start new programs in universities which combines serious health care topics and artificial intelligence? Most importantly there should be mandatory new licensing requirements for these AI people to develop new AI based solutions for health care which doctors are going to heavily use. Unlike medical devices which undergoes stricter controls and FDA approvals before entering market, software products are so fuzzy to tell the truth. You just got to blindly trust the people who wrote the application. I don't think that is a good idea in the field of medicine. Just to give an analogy, as you know, Boeing 737 Max met with two fatal accidents and all plains grounded. Why? A software glitch for the lay man. I would say the guys who wrote coded didn't have enough domain expertise or education. Coming to the point: Which university , other than Stony brook in our back yard, which offers high end technology/engineering and medicine programs is equipped to start a program which combines AI and medicine which will make my daughter dream come true, which will also set the trend for the industry to have only qualified people working on health care software solutions touching people's lives just like a doctor.

Thanks, and really appreciate your time.

With regards

Vinod

---

My name is Tracey, I am Emma's mom. I absolutely loved the program. I feel it was a great introduction to the different aspects of the medical profession. Emma learned so much and will be continuing to study for a career in the medical field. I have nothing negative to say about it. I would love for my younger daughters to continue in her footsteps!

Thank you,

Tracey

---

My name is Laurie and my daughter, Kylie, was a participant this year. We first heard of the program last year just as the registration closed so we made sure to submit her application as soon as it opened this year. The breadth of content is what interested us most about the program. As my daughter begins exploring her options for college and possible majors she is drawn to the science and medical field but has not yet narrowed down her interest. All the different workshops and seminars provided her exposure to so many different areas in her field of interest. When asked about the seminars that she found most interesting, I was surprised that she liked the robotic surgery, hand surgery, ophthalmology and orthopedic surgery the most. Although she thought the robotic surgery was 'cool', finding out the length of the residency might have deterred her from this option. The orthopedic surgery seemed to pique her interest but not the videos depicting the injuries. She also found the SAT prep seminars very helpful. We have not enrolled her in any supplemental SAT/ACT prep courses, so she was very vocal about how well the instructors presented the material. Every day I asked her what she was offered to eat.

She enjoyed the differing offerings and tried everything, finding some new favorites but also finding foods she'll choose to avoid in the future. Both her father and I attended Stony Brook for our undergraduate degrees and we were happy that she spent her summer there and while Stony Brook was already on her short list for college, this program has given the school another tick in the 'pro' column as she starts her college admission journey. Her experience was such a positive one that I hope it continues to be offered in the future so that her siblings and cousins can have a similar experience.

Thanks again for a great a memorable summer for our daughter.

Sincerely, Laurie

---

Hello Srini,

By now I already feel like we know you personally since long despite we haven't met you personally even once but have heard a lot about you from our daughter Harshita. We thank you from the bottom of my heart for not only the program you are running but also for the passion and your heart and soul is in it. I myself belonged to Medical field and my husband Engineering, so we wanted our daughter to be exposed to both the backgrounds if she happened to choose one of these as her careers, but we wanted her to be exposed through not us as we would be biased but through another eye. I came across to know about your program after lot of research.

So bottom line, she loved the program as she was exposed to so many different fields by specialized and experienced doctors. So, it was almost firsthand knowledge which was wonderful. Every day she would share about her experience and pros and cons of the field. At least her brain started to think in that direction. Secondly, she loved the food almost every day and so did we especially the gobhi manchurian! It's awesome to have sponsors to take care of so many students and work as a team. It was like going to uncle's home to study not stressed for the lunch headache as it was taken care by Uncle. Thirdly, not only it was medical based but you guided about SAT preparation, college admissions and they get to meet students heading in same direction of life which makes you work harder or find friends with same taste so as to easy to connect to. I can write few more pages about this program but trying to keep it short and simple. Loved that you used to post pictures which made us as parents being a part of it and those emails were absolutely appreciated as it kept us informed always and gave peace of mind since it was early for them to be fully independent. The transport support was awesome as she could use the public transportation for the first time by herself with that support of picking and dropping facility. I attended the last day ceremony and could see how the kids were comfortable with you and your team and how much this program had made them more confident and equipped to choose the future. Lastly the speech by the head of admissions was also informative as now Harshita is already comfortable at Stony Brook and knows about the process of admissions it will guide her more while she will select the colleges. Btw just so you know that she had been going to stony brook hospital to volunteer since more than a year to see if she belongs there but after attending this program is when she was more confident and felt informed. Overall excellent teamwork and program. Lastly it was pleasure to see you and your daughter on the last day and would like to welcome you to our home. Whenever you have time, please let us know, we would love to have you and your family for lunch or dinner, this way we will be able to hear from you all the wonderful experiences you shared with these students as well. Looking forward to hearing from you soon!!!

Divya

---

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

Thank you for organizing such an informative SARAS for high school students. My daughter, Priya, had a pleasant experience during the program. We as a parent looked forward to your daily email updating activities. Priya learned there are many career paths in the medical field for future reference in her study pathway. She's also interested in the research program with SBU

Regards, P

---

Hi Dr Pentyala,

Our daughter Jacqueline thoroughly enjoyed the Stony Brook University SARAS program this summer! Each day, after coming home from camp, she was eager to share with us what she had learned. She expressed that all the medical doctors and medical professionals at the camp had a deep understanding of their specific field of expertise

and shared their experiences with a depth of knowledge that was very impressive. It was very educational, and the students seemed to have fun as well. It really was helpful to Jacqueline because it exposed her to various fields of study in the science and research arena. She would like to pursue a medical career in the future, and this program helped to reinforce her interest and enthusiasm for that. So, thank you for all that you have done to make this program happen! It was a great experience! She made a lot of friends and misses the time she spent there for three weeks! We also appreciated the continuous communications and jokes too!

Sincerely,  
Diane and Greg

---

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

I believe sending my son Wahub to the SARAS program was a great decision for many reasons. Firstly, he was able to experience the commuter life, and learned to use the Long Island Railroad system. This taught him responsibility. As well, the actual activities he did in the SARAS program were immensely helpful in opening his mind to new ideas and career paths. He was able to talk to many new, intellectual individuals who helped him grow his knowledge about the medical field. Finally, he was also able to make new friends from different areas and learn from his peers as well. Thank you SARAS and Dr. Pentyala for making it a wonderful experience my son.

---

Thank you Dr. Pentyala! Ariella said you made the session so much better and she and the kids were really sad to leave you. By the way the lime for car sickness worked like magic. We went on a 20 hour drive to Florida and back and none of my 3 children nor I had an unfortunate accident even though we are prone to car sickness. Ditto to limes and SARAS! If you or any of the faculty at SBU need any volunteers or research assistants, please keep us in mind. All the best wishes,  
Esmeralda

---

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

Thank you so much for organizing this SARAS program. My daughter, Shreya told me all about it. I signed her up for this program because she wants to go to medical school and become a doctor, but she didn't know what kind of doctor. This program allowed her to learn the fields in health care since she got to see doctors from Stonybrook who lectured on their job. She told me that her favorite lectures were ophthalmology and the maxillofacial surgery. She also told me that on some days she got to work in a lab which she said was very interesting and fun because it was hands on. I heard that she got SAT practice with test takers and I heard very good things about that program. I am planning on signing her up for test takers for the practice she needs for the SAT. Thank you again for the three weeks. Shreya really enjoyed it.

Vandana

---

Hi this is Maria. My son had a blast and got the best of the program he enjoyed everything thank you so much for putting together programs like SARAS

Thank you!  
Maria

---

Dr. Pentyala,

THANK YOU. I just wanted you to know that my daughter Christine Master had a great experience at SARAS. She wants to go in the medical field and this program helped her to get exposed and explore to the different areas and roles in the medical field. Christine was absolutely thrilled with the program, food and the labs. I think she enjoyed hands on more than the lectures. I felt that she always got excited to take about the labs. Thank you for the beautiful and very informative SARAS program. Again, THANK YOU!

Swati

---

I have to say, that Gyedi had a phenomenal time at the SARAS program at SUNY/Stony Brook. When I mentioned this program to Gyedi, he enthusiastically said "yes, I want to apply". I have never seen him so excited to participate in something. Usually he is less than enthusiastic about things. This one, though, he thought sounded like a great program from the first time I showed him the previous year's schedule. I tried to explain what the program was based on what I read on your website. We found out about the program from a friend who is an MD, and he told me that if my son was interested in medical school, he should attend this program. Gyedi was a resident for the program. Long after the program ended, he told me that he was 1 of approximately 10 boys who resided at SUNY/Stony Brook. I didn't realize that so many of the students would be day students. Regardless, I felt that being a resident was a great opportunity for Gyedi to get a taste of what it will be like to live on a college campus. He is a very mature boy and has been ready for this over the last couple of years. He enjoyed residing on campus and had the opportunity to commute home to NJ over the weekends as he took the LIRR to Penn Station and transferred to NJ Transit to get home to South Orange each Friday. He handled it perfectly. He was very excited about the hands-on experiences that he had. He mentioned he was able to practice administering epidurals. He was excited to talk about what he had heard from the eye surgeon who spoke to the students. I think he enjoyed every aspect of the program. He never called saying he was bored or disinterested. I think the students must have been kept very busy. I think he returned with a new sense of seriousness towards grades and school. He is also a bit more focused on his college search than he was prior to attending the SARAS program. Gyedi has been saying that he wants to go to medical school since he was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Now a senior in high school, he still talks about attending medical school and becoming an anesthesiologist. After SARAS though, in addition to his interest in anesthesiology, he said he was very interested in what the eye surgeon did. But he said that it would require additional years of study to be an eye surgeon. I don't think he necessarily viewed that as a bad thing. He also mentioned a lab on blood which he really liked. All this to say... I think you are doing something GREAT at SARAS and need to keep up the good work!

Shahri

---

Hello Dr. Pentyala,

I wanted to write to you and let you know how impressed I was with the 2019 SARAS program. The program gave my daughter so many experiences and information to solidify her interest in focusing on what she needs to do to pursue a career in medicine. I looked forward to picking my daughter up from the train everyday to hear what she had learned about that day. I also really enjoyed your emails and pictures of the day. It was great to see so many students from all over NY coming together. My daughter also loved getting to see the campus of Stony Brook and the hospital. She was very impressed with both. The program was such a great introduction to the "real world" of medicine. I think it was a positive and confidence-building experience for my daughter. It was awesome to be part of a program that really believed in our students and their potential. Thank you so much for all your hard work. I will definitely recommend the program to others.

Kathleen

---

Hello Dr. Srinivas,

Thanks! to you & fellow faculty for organizing such an educational experience for youth during summer and providing a well-organized professional insight to the medical field. Every evening at dinner, the whole family got to hear something new from Ojas about exciting things learned and experimented at SARAS. You & your team are doing such a great work, hopefully my daughter (7th Grader) will be at your program too.

Regards,

Rajeev

---

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

I cannot thank you enough for your wonderful program! My son Noah thoroughly enjoyed his three weeks with you at Stony Brook. He learned so much in the lectures and workshops and was eager to share his new

knowledge with us on the weekends. SARAS has definitely helped Noah understand all the options in the medical world. He made great friends, ate delicious food, and learned so much in a short time. Thank you again!

Daniela

---

My daughter Pranati really enjoyed the SARAS program. Until this summer program, her thoughts about Medical field was only about human physiology. This SARAS program expanded her vision as how robotics and programming too is involved in medicine. She enjoyed the guest lectures and life skills taught each day, and interviewing Army veteran opened up her compassionate side. She also had fun exploring the train ride independently. I would recommend SARAS to my friends and family in future. Thanks.

Akila

---

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

My daughter, Sydney, attended the program this summer. She stayed on campus and was picked up every Friday and returned on Sundays. She was very excited to discuss the lectures that took place during the week. It is an hour ride to Baldwin. She talked the ENTIRE time. Sydney would tell me what she learned, what she liked, and what she didn't like. She really enjoyed the lecture on hematology. Sydney said she learned more about taking the SAT from your presenter than the course I paid for through her school. She met a nice group of young ladies in the dorm. This was an opportunity for Sydney to experience dorm living before she goes away to school in 2020. The program has solidified her desire to study medicine. Thank for a program she will never forget.

Candice

---

Dear Mr. Pentyala,

First of all, thank you for organizing sure a wonderful program for the kids! It is truly a great experience for them to get exposure to the multitude of medical fields that are available for them to partake in. Tej thoroughly had a wonderful time. He looked forward to going to Stony Brook everyday knowing that he will be learning new and exciting things. Labs were his favorite part because he got to perform hands-on activities and was able to relate to them. The usage of the sonogram, CPR, blood sampling, etc. As a toddler, he used to come with me to the obstetricians to see his little brother via the sonogram! Going to the nursing home brought back memories to him of the time I used to take him to visit his grandmother (my mother) in the nursing home while she was recovering from a bedsore. He was able to relate to the elderly folks there. When he came home from SARAS, he talked about the exciting things he learned and performed! He hopes to take on a career in the medical field when he grows up, so this truly did provide him a plethora of knowledge to get on the right track! Thank you for making the event fun (yes, he enjoyed your talks and jokes!) and exciting and educational at the same time!

Sucheta

---

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

This program has greatly helped my daughter find out what area of medicine she wanted to focus on. Every day, she came home very much excited and talked immensely about the wonderful day she had had. I am grateful for the outcomes of this program and I thank you and all of the other medical professionals for enriching my daughter beyond what I could have imagined.

---

The SARAS Research Program sponsored by Stony Brook medicine was a critical educational program and I am very pleased that my daughter had the opportunity to attend. I felt this program gave her an overall understanding and exposed her to various areas of the medical field. This course prepared and challenged her to explore her career choices. This workshop was different from others she attended in the past. It allowed student participation with hands on experiences and physically challenged her to engage in activities that had meaningful content such as; intubating the mannequin. Everyday my daughter came home she had a new exciting experience to share with me. Each day we discussed challenges and benefits of each speaker of the day. This I felt was useful in making connections with each profession so she could reach her own conclusion

on the path necessary for her to be a success on her future educational goals. Overall the gratitude I have for each expert dedicating their time to share their experiences, values and enthusiasm with each student. I feel the values and wisdom each speaker gave to my daughter has been an experience that will leave a positive impact on her future. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU.

Wendy

---

I am so glad that my son got the opportunity to attend the SARAS program 2019. It helped him a lot to understand the reality of various aspects are in the health industry. Thank you so much for organizing this amazing event to help students learn useful and possibly lifesaving information.

The Parents of Roney

---

Dr. Pentyala,

We cannot thank you enough for running this wonderful program. Everything was organized extremely well and we appreciated the daily emails with updates a lot as the kids don't share as much. Arya enjoyed learning about hospital operations, microbiology and lab operations. The 3D printing and the germs workshop being her favorite. The test takers sessions were extremely helpful, and we look forward to joining them this winter for the SAT prep.

Rupali

---

Hi Dr. Pentyala,

My daughter Divya really enjoyed the SARAS program. It was nice to hear her get excited to talk about what she had learned about medicine. My dad who is a retired anesthesiologist was very happy when Divya called him asking questions regarding biology and other medicine related questions. Sending Divya to the SARAS program was worth the flight tickets/travel from MN to NY. It was also her first experience of college dorm life. I really appreciated your daily e-mails on the agenda and what they did each day. A big thank you to all of your staff and doctors who came to share their knowledge on their specialties. This program has really helped to show what medical field would be like and maybe she might choose to become a doctor one day. I also would like to thank Stonybrook housing for the security they provided for the minors that were attending the SARAS program.

Thank you,

Durga

---

Srini, you were very responsive from the very beginning. First when I heard about the program, I had question about the registration process & how to go about it, I emailed you & there was a quick response. usually this is not the case with other programs. That was the only email from me to you & this review email is the second. After registration all my questions were answered in the emails that you sent regularly, you were very thorough about everything how to get there, daily briefings about the food & the program, what to expect tomorrow, weather, etc. Most importantly all your emails were catchy & funny. I like how you handled the kids commuting by train everyday & how concerned you were about picking & dropping them on time. They even had their own organizers. My daughter ANAYA really had a very good experience at SARAS. She absolutely loved the program especially the labs. Thanks to you and all organizers that help with this amazing program. Thanks Again

Sabina

---



Dr. Pentyala,

Overall, I am unexplainably thankful for you, the Department of Anesthesiology, Stony Brook Hospital, and any other faculty members involved with SARAS for giving my daughters the exposure they have always wished for. They couldn't contain their excitement to attend the next day of this program and deeply saddened with its finish. This program has surely influenced their knowledge capacity and hopefully they will continue to pursue their branch of interest using SARAS as their starting point. Once again, I am very grateful for the immense care that was put into making the students feel happy, comfortable, and driven throughout the duration of this program; I hope that this program stays as long as possible to give the same experience to many other kids in the future.

Sincerely,

Yeon

---

We want to thank you very much for the amazing program that you have put together. Each day at SARAS was exciting, extremely educational, and offered many facets of biomedical sciences to our kids. Shreyas learned a lot in SARAS and thoroughly enjoyed all the sessions. The experts, presenters and volunteers were just outstanding. Kids also truly appreciated you keeping all the complicated world of medical science light with your comic sense. Thank you for all the emails and updates that you send, not to mention all the photos and videos that were uploaded. We really appreciate being informed on what the kids did each day, and also on what they ate. Thanks to the caterers for supplying yummy food for the program. Additional bonus was kids getting experience on LIRR, made really easy due to your campus bus ride arrangements to and from HSC. Thank you and your team again for a wonderful learning experience for my son!

Richa

---

Dr. Srinivas Pentyala,

I want to take this opportunity to send my heart-felt thank you for many things, first and foremost, is to have the SARAS program. I know it is not easy to coordinate all the professional/staff/volunteers to run a program such as SARAS (and not to forget, the lunch sponsors, so I hear that can be a highlight for some students). I understand why you need a vacation right after the program comes to completion!! The hands-on workshops is what I hear takes it over the top for the students. That is what gets them excited. Perform an intubation, CPR procedures; working in the laboratory setting, these are experiences they can take with them, whatever they decide to pursue as their career choices. The tour at the Veteran's Care Center was a highlight because Joshua got to interact with the people at the center and it made an impression for my son to want to help them. Thank you for arranging shuttle bus to/from LIRR train station. Without it, we would not been able to attend. Thank you for engaging the student with a well-run program and introduce them to the many facets in healthcare. It is an invaluable program and experiences for my son during the three weeks. I appreciate (and enjoyed the comical) very informative email communications from you. In two years, I hope my daughter will be able to attend the program. Congratulation on another fantastic program.

Emily

---

Dear Mr Srin,

My son Naseer attended the SARAS program this year and he loved it. Honestly as a parent, I was amazed at the amount of knowledge he gained this summer, along with learning new terminologies and interesting facts in the medical field. This led to some very interesting discussions at the dinner table and since none of us are from the medical field, it gave us a very good insight into the field of medicine. Medicine is a very vast and complicated field, and to have it presented in such an entertaining manner is really commendable. It was exciting to listen every evening about what was learnt in each of the sessions. Couple of medical conditions discussed

hit home and we were able to have some deep discussions about them. Socially, I was glad he was able to meet new people and interact with them. The best thing I liked about this program was the way it was organized. Informational and enjoyable emails, photos about the day-to-day events, various lunch choices, fun activities (Naseer loved doing the CAD challenge), opportunities for participation etc. I would like to commend you and your staff for putting in all the hard work. Thanks for opening up a new world to my son. I hope he can build on this and do great things in the future. Thanks again.

Naseer's mom-Reshma

---

Dear Dr. Srinivas Pentyala,

We Shilpa and Rajiv, parents of Rayva would really like to thank you and your team at Stony Brook who took their valuable time out to organize a wonderful summer camp SARAS in July. Thank you for the wonderful opportunity you provided Rayva during this summer. We were so impressed about the knowledge and experience your camp provided. Every evening when we picked her from the train station, she relayed funny and amusing stories about her classes and presentations and the friends she made. Thank you so much.

Rajiv and Shilpa

---

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

I just wanted to thank you for all your time, effort, preparation and personality that you put into this phenomenal program. My daughter, Anastasia, attended this summer and enjoyed it tremendously!! She looked forward to waking up early and being dropped off at the train station every morning (after a week of being driven out to Stonybrook, from Queens). Ah, what we do for our children. She thoroughly enjoyed the hands-on approach to the classes and the labs. I loved the way you gently push these teenagers out of their comfort zones and force them to form friendships. I understand you have a wonderful sense of humor, after hearing details of the day...every day! This program has solidified her love of medicine and her confirmation of the desire to go to medical school. Thank you for everything you do. Very truly yours,

Irene

---

Hello Dr. Srinivas-

Our son, Sascha, had nothing but great things to say about his time in SARAS. He had a difficult time coming home as he really enjoyed the program and found it very informative as well as engaging. He went into the program knowing that he had a deep love of Science but wasn't sure what area would interest him most. He came out with a clearer picture of the areas he would like to delve into deeper as well as specialties that are not quite the right fit for him. We learned a lot along the way as well. Each weekend, he was eager to share his notes from that week's lectures and tell us more about your "dipstick" :) Net/net, it was a wonderful experience that also helped solidify Stonybrook as one of his top college choices.

Thank you-

Steven and Irene

---

Hi Dr Pentyala

I would like to thank you for making us part of the last day event. I want to congratulate you on the successful SARAS program this year. My daughter Nishtha enjoyed going there and learned a lot of new things in science field that opened up her options to think for future career. The things I personally liked was the security measures you all took to ensure students safety while they were commuting by train and arrangements were made brilliantly. I would like to thank the whole staff involved in that. Also, she stayed one week at the dorm there and had guides taking them back and forth to the program and to dorms and cafeteria.

Shalini

---

Hi Dr. Srinivas,

I think you have done a commendable job in putting together and executing the Science and Research Summer Program. From the feedback I got from the conversations with my daughter (Simoni), I'm totally convinced that

the program was informative, practical and fun at the same. Besides the educational part, it helped my daughter explore the train commute, enjoy and appreciate different cuisines and also develop her social skills. I would certainly highly recommend this program to all the kids who want to pursue or explore the different career options in the medical field. Regards.

Kapil

---

Hello Dr. Pentyala,

I was really pleased to see the impact your program had on my son. He would come home on the weekends and tell me the various things he learned and the different medical fields he was exposed to. He told me he learned different research projects going on right now, and that he hoped one day to be a part of it. He told me he had lots of fun and he had good food. The pictures on the website were nice and looked like all the kids had fun while learning a lot. Thank you for this opportunity for my son.

Shobi

---

Hi! I'd like to thank you and the entire SARAS staff for giving Hannah an awesome three-week premed experience. Hannah literally looked forward to her daily 3+hrs commute, so she can participate, learn from and enjoy the amazing itinerary you had in store for them each day! Between the interesting lectures, workshops and intriguing labs she had so much to share with us at the end of each day. She also is so glad to have become friends with likeminded peers who share similar interests. Hannah really benefited from SARAS 2019 in so many ways, and we are so happy she was able to participate in this wonderful program.

Shaindy & Zvi

---

Dear Dr. Srinivas,

SARAS was a wonderful experience for Anshula. I expected SARAS to be a serious (probably dreary) program but it turned out to be serious learning in a very fun way. Your emails are a reflection of that. Anshula came home happy every day and discussed your interesting conversations with them. It not only gave her various perspective on Science Research but also got to see her country through another pair of eyes. And not to miss the tasty lunches she had every day. Anshula's first steps into the realm of medicine has forged her interest under your mentorship. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Warm regards,

Sarita

---

Dr. Srinivas Pentyala,

I'm writing this reflection assignment to complete the certificate requirement for my son, Lance, and my daughter, Lana. I guess I only need to do this, once right? One stone two birds for me and one less email for you to read, win win! In case you're wondering where this casual conversation vibe is coming from, it's from your funny email updates during the SARAS weeks. I've to say, your enthusiasm for higher learning and having fun is contagious! While most parents anxiously waiting for the pictures to be posted, I'm excited to read another one of Dr. Pentyala's summary of curiosities and mishaps. Thank you so much for making the science journey more fun and memorable than already is. My son will be a sophomore at Stony Brook (biochem major). He registered the SARAS program hoping for additional laboratory tutelage. He mentioned that the lectures were rigorous and challenging, comparable to that of the curriculum from his freshman year. Since he's already exposed to this kind of learning environment, he's happy that he was able to absorb a lot more material more than his slightly younger peers. Even though SARAS has been running for 16 years, I didn't know about it until my daughter submitted her application back in April of this year. I think this is a great summer program for any high school student who's into science. If there's a prerequisite for preparing for college, I highly recommend SARAS. It's not just getting a preview of college level courses, it's also an opportunity for personal growth. My daughter has learned how to live with a roommate, how to adjust her routines in a new environment, and how to do the laundry! Of course, most importantly, it all comes down to breaking out of the normal comfort zone and making new

friends. It makes me happy to witness my daughter did all of that on her own. As an aging adult, I realize that the wonders in life are not measured by the exotic places we been to or the number of famous people we took selfies with, but rather how many curious minds we've inspired to make our foreseeable future a better place for all. I always thought that we're a nation powered by creativity with eagerness to explore the unknown, but the current political divide has revealed an ugliness that deeply pains all of us. Instead of being afraid of things we don't know, we're afraid of each other for being different. How can we make any progress as human beings if we're busy building walls to block us in? I don't know the quick answer to that, but I do know this. After seeing the SARAS kids in Lecture Hall 1 in action, I know that our future is full of hope. Thank you Dr. Pentyala and the wonderful SARAS staffs for an inspiring summer of learning and having fun!

Yours sincerely,  
Kevin

---

I think Paul enjoyed many aspects of the program. I feel it gave a high level overall of many aspects of healthcare careers and opportunities. The VA Center visit he enjoyed the most.

Wendy

---

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

SARAS is a special program in that experts presented their knowledge on a variety of topics not always available to high school students. Who knows that a lecture may have sparked an introduction to a field of study in the years to come. Thank you for the time and commitment in organizing this series. Your boundless energy and enthusiasm were sincerely conveyed even in your timely emails. I felt that you and your team were able to connect with the students, thus making the whole experience memorable and enjoyable. The caterers who provided lunch were appreciated as well. The photos and videos enabled parents to see how the days progressed and "allowed" them to be in the same room. Overall, it was a wonderful three weeks.

Ruth

---

Thank you Dr. Pentyala,

The SARAS program sounded like it brought tremendous awareness of many aspects of the Medical world. Emma enjoyed the various lectures and hands on exposure to medicine. Emma is also thrilled to have made many new friends with similar interests. She is very excited to continue her journey of exploring medical service. Thank you for the daily updates of each day's program. It certainly piqued our interest and provided for great discussions at dinner every night. What a great job at sparking interest in these teens!!! Thank you for your dedication. - Anne

---

Hi Dr. Pentyala,

Love this unique way, collecting feedback. From the first weekend after I pick up Timothy, he shared many interesting sections during our driving back home. SARAS Photos and Videos was the best gift to me, as a parent, it was like that I was there and didn't miss much. Throughout the entire three-week program, not only many excellent speakers from various medical fields were present, SARAS lunch arrangement was amazing. It was the first time that Timothy tried Indian dishes. Timothy also corrected me that a cracked bone is actually a broken bone from medical perspective.... my goodness. It was a great experience for Timothy. Thank you.

Timothy's Mom

---

Hi Dr Pentyala,

Thank you so much for running this program for the students to learn about the different fields of medicine and research. What a phenomenal program! My daughter was very excited to attend each day and found most of the presentations very interesting and informative. She plans on applying for nursing programs this fall, and this program gave her insight and knowledge into many different areas of healthcare! We also liked receiving your

emails each day, you have a great sense of humor! Thank you for spending time to plan such a fantastic summer experience for these future healthcare providers and researchers! Sincerely,  
Nikole (Emma's mom)

---

Hi Dr. Pentyala,

My daughter Trisha attended the SARAS this summer. She has enjoyed it thoroughly. She said she has learnt a lot about different aspects of medicine from various experts. Thanks to this program, she has grown interest in this field. She has also enjoyed her train rides and the lunch.

Partha

---

Hello Dr Pentyala,

Thank you for your effort in organizing this educational science camp - SARAS here at Stony Brook University. Now I can write that all my three children have attended this great program! The hours and duration were good. Aaron came home excited every day and he shared about his day's experience. It was really helpful in providing exposure to different dimensions of the medical field. I noticed him using medical terminology and details of the procedures and having discussions with his father who is in field of Radiation Oncology. Sorry being a IT professional I got lost in those discussion detail...He especially enjoyed the sessions where MDs were the guest speakers, his visit to LISVH and meeting the veterans, mock up patient interview and its assessment, hands on CPR and tourniquet, to name few.

---

My daughter, Tarunika attended SARAS this year and she absolutely loved it. When I first told her that she was going to go to the program over the summer, she relented. She complained saying that she doesn't even want to go into any field in medicine, but I told her that this is just a learning experience and that it might change her mind. I had heard from a friend that this program was a great program and I enrolled my daughter too. On the first day when she came home, I asked her how it went and she said that she wants to go again tomorrow. You see, I told her that if you really really really despise the program that much that I will take her out of it but she confessed that it was not bad at all. On the last day of SARAS I asked her what she thought of the program and she told me that she wished it was longer. She was really sad that the program was over. I asked her why she missed it and she told me that even though this is my summer vacation I really liked some of the careers that they taught us about. I asked her what else she liked and she said that the food was amazing :) Then I asked her what she didn't like and she told me that she wished she was able to interact with more people and make friends but I personally think that she could have done that during lunch. In conclusion, thank you so much Dr. Pentyala for administering this program, I'm really proud to be a SARAS parent.

Sincerely, Sasikumar

---

Hello Dr. Srini,

It has been a wonderful 3 weeks program for Avi. Extremely FUN, educational and interesting in all perspectives. The knowledge that she learned from SARAS will definitely make a difference going forward. For me, I have always look forward to your daily notes and humor about how much they accomplished and learned that day. Keep up the good work Dr. Srini. Best,

Avi's Mom

---

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

All I can say is wow! The program that you coordinated this year and the work and attention to every detail were amazing. Everyday Diana came home with new and exciting stories to share with us. She is so excited about working in a hospital that she will likely volunteer this coming year in one near us in Queens. As you may remember, her brother David attended your program as a HS sophomore in 2006 and now we are proud to say that he has graduated Downstate Medical School and is a pathology resident there. Even better, 4 months ago, he married a medical school classmate who is doing a fellowship in renal at Columbia Presbyterian. I wonder how many young minds you have helped guide towards a medical career. We are quite certain that our daughter will be one of them. We also want to thank you for the vegetarian meals (we keep kosher) and the bus that you

arranged to pick up and deliver the students to and from the LIRR each day. That along with all your emails and updates and care for our children, made this a summer to remember. Thank you.

Michael & Gail

---

I thought that this program was wonderful! Every day when I picked Amber up, she was so ready to talk about what she learned that day. I will most definitely recommend to friends and family for the future.

-Jacqueline

---

Thank you, Mr. Pentyala, for all your efforts and interest in our children! Diana had a nice experience at your program. She took the train for the first time, experienced a great number of speakers at an amazing university and an array of different cultural foods! :) She looks forward to putting all she learned into an internship at SBU one day! (I hope!)

Helen

---

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

My husband and I would like to thank you for setting up such a wonderful and comprehensive hands-on program for students who are considering a career in medicine. Our 2 children, Rami and Sophia attended the program daily over the last 3 weeks with great enthusiasm and interest. They came home daily anxious to discuss what new things they learned about and looking more and more inquisitive about the field. The program was indeed a great introduction to the field of medicine which, as you know, has become very challenging to step into, for various reasons. We were happy to see that the program achieved the goal of further igniting their initial spark of interest in healthcare. The program provided a wonderful approach to this introduction, which was very positive, from the location of the program (at the hospital, introducing the kids to the ACTUAL bustling working hospital environment by just walking into one daily), to the variety of fields covered and experts who covered them, to the hands-on learning approach and daily fun challenges that continued to keep them engaged. The program serves as a much-needed introduction to this very important field and gave interested students an excellent idea of all the career options available to them (covering even income potential!). They are now much more enlightened and can make wiser choices as to which career paths they decide to take. Incidentally, we were discussing how pleased we were with SARAS with your sister, (her company handles my husband's practice billing), who also told that us her daughter had attended one of the earlier SARAS programs and is now a physician. Lastly, we will be spreading the word and recommending the program to our friends. Thank you again for all your hard work and enthusiasm in putting together this wonderful program for students and succeeding in engaging their interest! It is clear you have great pride in it, as you should. Wishing you more success in all future SARAS events! Thank you,

Tahani & Hani

---

Hi, this is parent reflection on my son's, Liel, participation in SARAS 2019. My son Liel expressed general great satisfaction from participating in the program. He liked that the program touched many different medicine fields and that he learned a lot of new and interesting information. He liked the workshops that he had during the program too. Although Liel also said that some lectures were "a little too much for high school level", means providing the students with too many details for an introductory level of the knowledge he was expecting to get. But anyway, my son was excited to get up every morning during last 3 weeks in order to arrive to SARAS. Again, the overall reflection is very positive and satisfying. Thank you very much!

Marina

---

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

As parents, we are very pleased Angel decided to attend the SARAS program this year. He absolutely enjoyed it. The caterings were an extra bonus that he really appreciated since they gave him a choice of different kinds of foods almost every day. Angel was recommended to attend a Medical congress in Boston by his Phycology

teacher and we were so excited for him, but the program wasn't half as amazing as SARAS was to him. SARAS was very organized and exposed the kids to many possibilities in the Health field. Angel liked it very much and learned a lot. Much more than the expensive trip to Boston. Thank you so much for giving him such a great experience. Best regards,  
Giovanna

---

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

My son, Matthew, had an amazing time at the SARAS program. He came home every week and educated us on the new techniques and advances in medicine that are being used today and that are still developing. I am very happy that he is now aware of what each profession in the medical field does I wish I had a program like this one when I was attending the undergraduate program at Stony Brook University. I appreciate you and your teams hard work to make this program happen so memorable and successful. Thank you, PS. Loved the Daily emails...

Nandor

---

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

We the parents of Sama and Reyah are extremely thankful that our children are exploring the medical field at such a young age through the SARAS program. It is a unique program that brings about interest to children that are currently indecisive about their future careers. Every day, my children would come home and talk about every field you went through in detail, and it surprised us since it shows how much they have learned. When you told the students that you hailed from Guntur, India, it brought back my memories of going to Guntur College that helped me get into medicine. We appreciate the hard work and effort you and your staff made to give my children a wonderful experience at Stonybrook University Health and Sciences center. Thank you!

---

Thank you so much for organizing this program. My daughter Alina had a great experience. She was impressed with the variety of specialties in medicine. She had a great time with the hands-on activities and was so excited to have intubated on her first attempt. She lived on campus and became a much more independent person. The friendships she made will continue to flourish even though the program has ended. Thank you for giving her this opportunity.

Jeena

---

*Hello, Thank you for coordinating the camp. Christian looked forward to camp each day and greatly enjoyed participating. He's looking forward to attending SUNY SB in the future. Kind regards, Karen (Christian's mom)*

---

Hello! And thank you for an informative three weeks! I have found your emails to be fun and a springboard to discussions with my daughter about her day! She seemed to have learned a lot. It seems that her most memorable experiences came from doing the sonogram of her veins (I think?), the Orthopedist who performed surgery on the ballet dancer, and she loved the gentleman veteran she spent time with!!! Overall her experiences seemed worthwhile. All went well and I'm happy she had the opportunity to solidify her interest in medicine. Have a wonderful summer and thank you for your hard work! Going to give a shout out to my neighbor who informed us of the program!

Antonella

---

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

The SARAS program has been a wonderful experience for my daughter, Nikita. The speakers and lectures were highly motivating and provided exposure into many fields in the medical field. Thank you so much for all of the hard work that went into making the SARAS program so successful. Our daughter Nikita had an enjoyable and enriching experience in the program. There was an excellent balance between entertainment and education. Nikita was exposed to so many topics in science and healthcare that she otherwise would not have access to. She has gained new interest in areas she previously had little

knowledge about and is inspired and motivated to learn more about these exciting fields. Your leadership of this program

was excellent and provided just the right amount of guidance. My daughter loved the lecture on Robotic Surgery. It allows precollege students the opportunity to see what excites them in the medical field before entering college. The daily communication that we received from you was extremely helpful and informative! It is evident that you took great care into designing and implementing this program. It was very well organized. I would highly recommend the SARAS program to anyone thinking about possibly entering the medical field. Thank you again for the wonderful program that you offer to the students.

Nehali

---

Dear Dr. Srinivas

I cannot imagine that already 3 weeks over. What a wonderful session. I have seen most of the pictures you have been sending. They are beautiful. I cannot imagine how everyone has taken so much interest to teach kids, out of their busy schedule. A million/zillion Kudos to you to spearhead this educational session. That's why I was so persistently trying to get Thanmai even after I realized that it was way too late. Thank you so much for your help. I wish you all the best. Best regards,

Ram

---

Hi Dr. Pentyala,

I heard about this program from one of my friends and enrolled my daughter. I just wanted her to get an exposure to hospital surroundings and few lectures. She was not that excited when I told her about this program, but after few days of joining the program she told me "thank you for sending me there". I asked her "what you like most about the program". "She said everything"!! I was so happy to hear that. She gave me a great picture of the program every day. I saw that every day she was so excited to go because there were something exciting every day! She told me about the microbial culture swab from her shoes (not grown anything surprisingly), CPR class, visiting veterans... so many more including college preparation guidance... I am very happy about the program & I already recommended this to many of my friends!

Thanks to Dr. Srinivasa & SARAS TEAM

Regards

Rose