

## **2021-SARAS : PARENTS FEEDBACK**

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Hi Dr. Srini,

My daughter, Diya, thoroughly enjoyed the program. She has an interest in potentially studying medicine (I suppose like most kids that attended the program), and the program gave her very good exposure to the various fields and specialties. Of course, this year there was no scope for hands on workshops, but within the constraints of covid social distancing, she learned a lot. And her interest in pursuing medicine, has been further reinforced. A very special thanks to you for your hands on approach, and especially organizing all the speakers to take time from their schedules and come talk to the kids. I think the program is all the more special due to your guidance and mentorship. If there are any supplemental programs, or opportunities for her to volunteer at the hospital or shadow a doctor, please do let me know. I am sure she would be more than happy to do so.

Kind Regards,

Sanjay

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

My daughter Alexa really enjoyed the SARAS program. She was registered for it last year and was so disappointed when it was canceled. Alexa was really excited the program was offered this year and that she was allowed to attend. The experience far exceeded her expectations. Each evening Alexa would discuss interesting information and intriguing concepts she had learned during the day. She looked forward to each new day and didn't want it to end. We can't thank you enough for making the SARAS program possible this summer. We realize it was a huge task keeping up with the ever-changing safety guidelines and COVID protocols to ensure everyone's safety. We really appreciate all your hard work, it was an amazing experience.

Sincerely,

Pam

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Hello Dr. Pentyala,

This is David's mom. Thank you very much for this amazing opportunity for my son to participate in the SARAS program. I spoke with David every day on the way home, he was excited to tell me what the presentations were on that day. I have to confess, we both were anxious about how the program will be presented, considering the students were not able to leave the auditorium for the whole duration of the session. David was looking forward to the lab portions of the program the most. But, even though he didn't have a chance to have 'hands on' experience, he was still very excited to talk about what he saw during the lab presentations and the lectures on that day. A few times, when David was working on getting out of bed in the morning, he said, "Now I feel like I want to skip it today and sleep in, but I know I will regret missing it". David enjoyed the program, was looking forward to a surprise giveaway at the end of the day and to the next session.

Great work! Great Program!

Thank you again for this wonderful opportunity.

Best,

Inna

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Hi Srini:

Thank you very much again to you and the committee for organizing this program in this difficult time. My daughters are inspired and learnt much in health sciences that impossible to accomplished by other ways.

My best wishes to you and the SARAS team,  
Jun

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

Thank you for arranging this amazing program. I enjoyed listening to my daughter sharing what she had learned during the program in the car, when I drove her home after the camp. She learned about many different aspects of medicine from various experts. I think it was a great experience for my daughter.

Thank you!

Best,  
Evelyn's mother

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Dear Dr. Srinivas,

We have only wonderful things to say about the SARAS program. Your effort and dedication to the program and the high schoolers is unique. We wish there were more people like you. Ekam has come excited so many times from the program. When I asked him what his top topics and sessions were -

Your lectures were at the top.

His next favorite was where the surgeon replaced the dancer's knee joint for her knee.

I have also been instructed to do laundry differently - he learnt about micro organisms.

As a mother - it is extremely satisfying when a child finds a passion to pursue.

You have helped him with that.

I can only imagine how much more interesting this program would have been prior to Covid, but I am glad you took on the challenge and arranged for in-person activities.

I do have one question - did you name the program after the SARAS coffee and spice packets, or vice versa?

Please let us know if you are in the bay area - we would love to host you for a cup of chai.

Sincerely,  
Ekam's parents

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Dear Dr. Pentyala

SAAS is the best organized and most interested camp my son ever has had so far. I felt that we are so lucky to live near by Stony Brook and had a chance to attend the camp. My son had learned a lot from the presentations and workshops. Thanks for ALL your work!!

Christopher's mom

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My daughter absolutely loved the SARAS program. She was interested in medicine before but her level of interest has tripled because of this program! I highly recommend it! She would talk about it for hours when we picked her up. Thank you for doing this for the next generation of medicine and for keeping them engaged. You made it so much more interesting every day!

-Jen

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Hi Srini.. This is Carlos, Olivia's dad and thanks again for helping Olivia attend SARAS this year. She was on the fence about going into the medical field but SARAS has catapulted her either into Medicine or the Dental Field (her mom is a dentist!!). Olivia has been doing research

with the Dermatology department and she LOVES it. I think that SARAS has opened a lot of the kids mind as to the vastness of the medical field and if COVID has taught us anything it is that medicine is a very stable and enduring career. It is unfortunate that SARAS was limited to somewhat on hands training and other workshops but I'm sure that will improve next year. Olivia enjoyed all the speakers especially the one who spoke about being and INNOVATOR!! I told Olivia to hold on the contact email should she decide to do research with the dental school. Take care!

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Dear Dr. Srini,

Thank you for conducting SARAS this year, with all the challenges due to COVID, I thought it will be not possible to have any summer program for high school kids. But you and your team did amazing work to keep kids safe, make the course very meaningful and rich with information. My Son Sid stated he loved all different professor educators explaining their work, he was very impressed by Ortho surgeon, CFO of hospital and Nursing home representative. It was very nicely run program, very well managed and quite informative. Thank you and everyone who helped you run this program.

Thank you,  
Snehal

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Dr. Pentyala,

Thanks for sending the photo and video links. I am already missing your emails. It has been a great program. My daughter has only good things to say about it. I am glad that she got a chance to attend SARAS.

Regards  
Nandini

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Dear Dr. Pentyala:

Thank you so much for making the program happen!

Although Katie only attended 2 of 3 weeks of the program, the positive impact the program had on her is huge - she was not entirely sure before (she was debating between computer science and medical science), but now she wants to be a doctor! Although we have mixed feelings about this (medical school means we as parents have to delay retirement!), it was great to see her excitement when she described what she learned about treating bone injuries.

I am sure that Katie will treasure the information and fond memories from SARAS, and we are all very grateful for the efforts you and your team put in to make it happen.

Sincerely,  
Katie's parents

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Dear Srinivas,

I cannot put in words the appreciation that I have for such a great program that you offered to our children. SARAS made a great impact on my daughter's perspective about her future. Before the program she didn't know the field to study, she wasn't too enthusiastic about the future; now, she is very excited, she is willing to work hard for her goal to go to Stony Brook University and become an Anesthesiologist! Thank you so much for inspiring her!

I didn't know what to do to help her to find her path and my older daughter, who is an alumni from Stony Brook, registered Elizabeth in the program, it was the best investment we have made.

Even though Elizabeth was very tired as she was going to Drivers Ed from 7am to 8:30am, she wouldn't stop talking about all the great things she learned in the program everyday, like how to do CPR, how to stop the bleed, respiratory therapy, how the blood transfusion works, about dentistry, and things that I haven't heard of before, ohh also how to plan for college!

I hope that one day when my daughter becomes a doctor, I will reach out to you to thank you for giving her this opportunity that changed her life. She now knows that being a doctor is not out of reach, she is looking for ways to do volunteering and get more involved and is looking forward to applying to Stony Brook.

Thanks again for everything you do Dr. Srinivas, I will always be grateful. Best regards,  
Jimena

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Dear Srinivas,

It was a great opportunity for Abhinav to understand and get an idea where he is heading and as parents we are very grateful to you for giving this opportunity. Thank you

Abinav's dad

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Hi ,

**Andrew really enjoyed the program. He found the lectures informative and the topics discussed were interesting to him. The 3 weeks flew by.**

Wendy

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Dear Dr. Srinivas,

I am sending this email to thank you and all presenters for making the camp so enjoyable for all students including my son. He told many exciting stories about scientific findings and experiments during dinner and lunch time. He found your innovative ideas to diagnose prostate cancer fascinating. I wish my son proceeds to the scientific field and explore his interests and challenges. I believe this camp helped him to find his passion inside.

Last but not least, I find your passion for education extremely valuable, making you a true educator. I can see this based on the program, your emails, and your intriguing presentations. I cannot thank you enough. Sincerely yours,

Masamichi's father

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Dear Mr. Srinivas,

I am the mother of Isabelle. I am very thankful that she was granted the opportunity to participate in the SARAS program this summer. My impressions of it include that it was an excellent opportunity for the students. Isabelle came into my car each day excited about the lectures she heard and she read from the notes that she had taken down. She gained knowledge about different medical specialties and for this I am grateful. She may be interested in the field of orthopedics. Thank you for encouraging the students to stay in touch with the presenters and for providing the name and contact information for future reference. Thank you so much!

Patti

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Hello, Dr. Pentyala.

Thank you so very much for organizing and running the 2021 SARAS program this summer. While so many other research programs were canceled this summer due to the Covid-19 pandemic, yours still existed and ran smoothly for the students. My son, Michael, gained so much from being exposed to all of the different medical experts that you arranged to come in and deliver lectures to the students. Michael especially enjoyed learning from the doctors in the cardiology, neurology, pulmonary, and orthopedic fields. Every day he had a lot to share with me about what he had learned, especially on the day that he intubated the mannequin! Participating in SARAS was not only worthwhile, it was an experience that Michael will never forget. It has confirmed Michael's decision to enter the medical field and become a surgeon. Thank you again for not canceling the program and for enriching Michael's life. I truly appreciate it.

Most sincerely,  
Mary

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Hello Dr.Pentyala,

Meaghan really got a lot out of the SARAS program. Every day, she would come out to the car excited and enthusiastically talking about what she had seen or heard about that day. She particularly liked the surgical talks, but was interested in all the speakers and would share their stories with us. She thinks you are " a genius' Lol 😊 She also was very appreciative and amazed at all the excellent advice you gave them to help them on their journey--she couldn't believe someone would be so giving of themselves. So, thank you for that, and for all the experiences and advice, you and the other speakers gave to them. We would have loved to have seen what it would have been like to participate in hands on labs/workshops, but we do appreciate the wonderful varied topics and areas of medicine and health and science that you all covered, and gave the kids exposure to. Thank you also for the chips, and sauce and coffee 😊 And T-shirt:) We appreciate all your hard work and enthusiasm, it definitely inspired our daughter.

Sincerely,  
Ann

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Hello,

My name is Paulina. Just want to say thank you so much for the opportunity. My son Alexander learnt so much in this program. As a mother I want the best for him . To be happy and chose a career that make all his dreams come true. Thank you for the emails very informative and fun.

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Hi Srini!

Jenna had a wonderful experience at SARAS. The diversity in topics truly gave her a sense of the health care industry and I can tell by her reaction how certain topics intrigued her more than others. This program will help her narrow down her choices for the future. I think it's wonderful you had a session to discuss SAT prep and planning for the future. Really puts things in perspective as these children (almost adults!) begin their senior year.

So happy you were able to accept her into the program and I highly recommend it. Keep up the great work and your wonderful sense of humor with the students :)

Warm regards!  
Daniela

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