

## 2022-SARAS : Parents Feedback

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Our third child to participate in this program - William -talked to us at dinner about the regeneration of organs and how "cool" that is. As we have a family member that waited 7 years for a kidney / heart transplant and just celebrated a second anniversary -we all found that remarkable. That one presenter did it! After this program, William studied harder for the SAT, finished his college Essay and has decided to apply ED to Boston University for engineering - following in his siblings footsteps. Catherine graduated from Columbia in May with a dual engineering degree and Cal is studying biomedical engineering- genetics and molecular biology at USC. All the kids need is for ONE - just ONE - presenter to grab their interest. Thank you for providing that opportunity for all three of my kids. Seeing what careers are available to them is half the battle. This is a smart and practical program run with a lot of patience and care!!!

Thank you -  
Christine

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

There are not enough words in the dictionary to thank you (and all the speakers and program staff in the SARAS program) for helping our son deepen his passion for the field of medicine. This morning at breakfast (Kevin was sleeping late!), my husband and I were discussing the many ways in which Kevin benefitted from being in the SARAS program. He is an excellent student but is, by nature, a real introvert. So, it was wonderful for us to see how excited he was every day when we picked him up.

Teenage boys do not always like to share information with their parents, especially about what they learned in school that day, but Kevin was always so enthusiastic. He was fascinated by the topics that were presented and also loved how many new people he was meeting. My husband joked that thanks to the SARAS program we now have "Kevin Lee Version 2.0!" Kevin has identified Stony Brook University as one of his top choices for college, and his guidance counselor has encouraged him to apply to the honors program. He has also decided, after completing the SARAS program, to apply to your Scholars in Medicine BS/MD program, even though he knows how incredibly competitive it is to gain admission.

In closing, we want to thank you for making this program both educational and fun. We also appreciate the special care your staff took to keep everyone safe from COVID. That was very reassuring to us as parents, as were the daily communications from you. Moreover, let me not forget how delicious all the snacks were! We live not far away so will definitely be visiting some of those restaurants in the near future.

We wish you and your staff a great end to summer.

Sincerely,  
Christine & Dae

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Hello Dr. Pentyala,

Was always a pleasure to read your enthusiastic and informative emails daily. Anika had a great time at your program which you obviously put in a lot of effort to arrange. She was exposed to many different branches of health science, which she had no idea about before your course. Definitely helped her to decide between what she was interested in and what she absolutely wanted nothing to do with!!

The kids really liked doing the CPR and procedures. Thanks once again for putting together a wonderful program. We truly appreciate the effort and infectious enthusiasm.

Sincerely,  
Amrita.

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Dear Srini,

Thank you for the wonderful 3 weeks and making this experience a very rewarding and memorable one for my daughter Sophia. Thank you to you and your team that went above and beyond to get her off the waitlist and into the program.

Much gratitude,  
Angela

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

Thank you for this amazing SARAS program, Karan loved it; it gave him a lot of knowledge in the science field, which will definitely help him in any career in life, as they say knowledge never goes waste. It is great that they have exposure to various medical specialties, to help them decide their career. Some of the lectures and workshops

were very informative as mentioned by him. SARAS is a wonderful program for high school students, thank you for coordinating this amazing program and updating us with the daily emails. Also thank you for the lovely snacks.  
Chitra

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Dr. Srinivas,

Thank you so much for a wonderful experience for our son Manav. He said he was introduced to so many topics and it was fun to explore different areas. He is still not decided if he will go towards science or not but he did appreciate the exposure. Also, want to thank u for sending them off every day with food. It helped a great deal. Regards,  
Dharini

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Dear Dr Pentyala,

George had such a wonderful experience at the SARAS program and we were absolutely thrilled to see him enjoy learning with you and the team throughout the 3 weeks. Each morning George was excited to attend and to follow his passion. He learned so much and got a lot of inspiration. The program was truly far above our highest expectations!

We are really so happy for George to have been a part of the SARAS program which will no doubt have provided so many valuable lessons for him. Thank you for offering this terrific opportunity and for your kindness to George and his peers.

Best Regards,

Fiona

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Dear Srini,

Our deepest thanks go out to you and your team for organizing such a fantastic program! Both my 10th and 12<sup>th</sup> graders participated, and both came away with really positive reactions. I must admit that my 10th grader came more as a convenience to me since we live in Manhattan and the commute would have been too difficult. We chose to stay closer to Stony Brook and to explore the area for the duration of the program.

From the first day, Sejal was hooked. By the end, she began to think that a career in medicine or something related is not out of the question. Annika was excited before starting and continued to be inspired throughout the three weeks. You and many of the speakers are still often quoted on a myriad of subjects. They both thoroughly enjoyed the hands-on activities, hearing from the experts, and of course, the end-of-day snacks!

Warm Regards,

Gita

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Dear Dr. Pentyala.

I cannot thank you and your team enough for that wonderful experience for my daughter Kodelia. Thank you again for the amazing talk and the amazing program. You will carry with you highest and warmest endorsements. She came home every day so excited about the different things she learned especially about Alzheimer's, the reverse Ankle surgery and gene mapping. Your team opened a whole new world for her.

Jacqueline

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Hello Dr. Srini,

Thank you again for taking the time in arranging this wonderful event for the kids to keep them informed and entertained at the same time during their break. It was definitely time well spent and invested. My son came back with a lot of useful and relevant information based on the sessions each day. He was also able to identify some of our colleagues as he himself was treated by some. It is funny because he actually started his life journey from Stony Brook; he was born there back in 2004... Once again kudos to you for taking the time out of your busy medicine routine/practice in getting so many kids to indulge in a variety of medical fields, where quite a few of them actually continue treading down one of those paths! Here's to 18 more years of SARAS...

- Jaymin and Hina

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

Thank you so much for organizing the SARAS program! It was an amazing experience for Alex and he learned so much from it. I am really grateful for all of your dedication to allow us to have an in-person event. You have made this experience much more convenient and less stressful by providing help with commuting to Stony Brook as well as by providing snack packs. Alex really loved the program! Thank you again for all of your work!

Best regards,  
John

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Reflections on SARAS:

Hello Dr. Srinivas,

Thank you, all of the clinicians and leaders at Stony Brook Renaissance School of Medicine who made time to share their expertise, time and perspective on the field of medicine and science during this program. We feel the SARAS program was an invaluable learning experience and opened up a world of opportunities and perspective that will stay with our daughter as she pursues her journey into the field of medicine. As a rising sophomore who will take AP Bio this coming year, she is excited to get started and looks forward to coming to SARAS the summer of 2023! Appreciate all you do, it truly makes an impact,

Heather and Kevin

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Dear Dr. Pentyla,

I wanted to take the time to thank you for an extraordinary experience. My son Zachary was part of the SARAS program this year and he had a remarkable experience. Each day he came out and was excited and passionate about the speakers that presented that day. He was excited about each field of study. He asked to enter the SARAS program because of all of the wonderful reviews and he was NOT disappointed! You and your colleagues presented him with an enormous amount of information and experience that truly inspired him to follow his dream into the medical field. You offer a one of a kind experience and should be enormously proud of the presentations you put forth to the young adults in the program. I can't thank you enough for the time, energy and effort you obviously put forth to make this a memorable experience. Your team covered every detail - right down to the afternoon snack (which Zach enjoyed every day). We truly appreciate everything you and your team did to make Zachary's experience memorable.

Thank you for everything and we certainly look forward to seeing you again next year.

Regards,

Kathleen

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Dr.Pentyala,

I am the parent of Jasmin who attended the SARAS program this summer. From what I have heard and observed from my daughter, the program was awesome. It was well conducted as the students were able to check the schedule for which expert was going to go. The student helpers were kind and patient, answering any questions or giving advice to my daughter. It was also great that you kept us parents in the know about SAT prep or any other incidents/events. I am thankful for the attention and time you and your students gave into this program to make it a great summer experience.

Thank you. Sincerely,

Marisol

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Hi Dr. Srinivas,

Thank You for your commitment to imparting information to our children who want to take the path of medicine. Ashna loved the lectures on orthopedic oncology and ophthalmology. She really enjoyed your sense of humor too. As she starts this journey, I hope she has the opportunity to meet and work with individuals such as yourself. We appreciate everything you have done.

Regards

Nidhi

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Dr Pentyla,

This is Adam's mom. Thank you so much for offering SARAS program. I did attend the final day of your program. I was amazed how much the kids can learn from this program with different medical related topics. I am learning as well for attending just a few hours today. I could tell from the laughter of the group in the final day, they truly were having fun. I enjoyed to read your daily updates and to learn about the secret snack pack every day. The snack was really helpful to fill the hunger during the ride home. This program offered much more than I anticipated for, at a nominal fee. I am really impressed you pulled together a team of medical experts, which normally they are not easily, get interacted with, except by appointment with insurance, to do the lecture. Also allowed the kids to interact and connect with them. Not many program out there can offer the

similar! Please continue offering this valuable program for the future doctors, lawyers, businessmen, and whatever they want to be (as you stated), they will benefit a great deal. Please let all the snack pack vendors know, all snacks were delicious and well consumed, lol.

Sincerely thanks and cheers

Peggy

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Dear Dr Pentyala,

It was such a pleasure meeting with you today! Kids had fun and learned a lot from you! I heard all the wonderful things from them when they came back from SARAS each day. Thank you very much for providing them opportunities to listen to the experts, teaching them the wonderful things which help them to shape their future. Also, if you have any research program where kids learn and participate they would love to join them. Please let me know. Since they have a came back from program today I heard them saying "We Miss SARAS". You really engage and inspired these kids.

Thank you so much!

Regards,

Prabjo

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Thank YOU Srini

For how well you lead SARAS every year! And what a great job you do for ALL those eager and smart young minds!

You are definitely one of the best, when it comes to Stony Brook's popularity out there.

Have a great summer

Best

Raafat

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Hi Dr. Pentyala,

I was very satisfied with the SARAS program attended by my daughter Nikki. It was a great experience and she truly enjoyed it. One way I know that for sure: the lazy girl woke up early and did not miss any day, except for the day I kept her home while awaiting COVID test results. Nikki is interested in the medical field and the exposure to the different fields was good, especially as both parents are non-medical! We appreciate the shuttle service as it allowed us to send her by train. Although I never got to see it, apparently the snack packs were good (when she took it). I had good laughs reading your witty emails! Thanks for keeping it light and fun while at the same time educational for the kids. Your efforts and dedication to the program are commendable, especially the daily recap emails!

Thank you and the team for a wonderful experience!

Best regards,

Reshma

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Jonathan really enjoyed the program. Any program that can get a 16-year-old teenager to get up and get to a program at 8 am in the summer must be pretty awesome. He always had plenty to talk about after the program. I am glad that he was exposed to so many different roles that work in a large health care system. Lots of kids think the only job in health care is a doctor but so many others make the hospital run. I appreciated the daily emails. That added update was helpful to know what the kids were learning every day. And thanks for sending the kids home with a snack every day. That was also much needed. I hope this program continues for many more years. It is such a valuable program. Lots of other kids should get to experience it and learn from it.

Cathy

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

This is Natasha's mom. SARAS program was an amazing opportunity for my daughter. She learnt about different aspects of scientific research. My daughter has been planning to pursue medicine and SARAS made her belief strong. SARAS gave her a very good exposure to the various medical fields. A very special thanks to you for your hands-on approach, your diligent response to all our emails and organizing the experts from various specialties as speakers. Thank you and all the experts for taking time from the busy schedules and presenting information. Special thanks for providing us parents the insight on the college search process and finding the right fit of college. Overall, this program is highly recommended for kids who love science. If there are any additional programs that provide new opportunities to my daughter at the hospital, please do let me know. Thank you once again for this great opportunity.

Regards,  
Shreena

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Thank you Srimi.

Mallika really enjoyed the SARAS program and she was very appreciative the wealth of information it provided her about the health care

Best,  
Anshu

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Hi:

My child and her friends learned a lot during SARAS. These topics included were all cutting edge. Thank you for organizing it and made it a success. My daughter personally love all the hands on stuff. She said glove / sanitizing methods, lumbar puncture, blood agar etc. were all quite good and memorable. Kidney stones to be passed around to look at. Hematologist or pathologist bringing slides and microscope. Thank you again for the program. It's quite an enriching experience.

Tina

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

Thank you and SARAS program for opening my kid's eyes to the medical world. I never expected she would be interested in anything related to "Hospital", but SARAS surprised me. My kid loved to go to SARAS and couldn't stop talking about what she learned during the lecture on our way home. She showed more and more interest in the medical world. She loved the hands-on part, and taught us how to do resuscitation (my chest is still hurt), she set up new rules at home and collected everyone's cellphone one hour before bed, and close the toilet lid before flushing it... We enjoyed reading your email every day and feel your enthusiasm and love for kids through the words. Really, truly appreciate you and your colleague brought this fun program to kids. Oh, I forgot to mention the food, we really enjoyed, food is delicious.

Best Regards  
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Dear Dr. Srinivas,

Thank you so much for organizing such a great SARAS program! My daughter, Erinn, really learned a lot about medicine from this program. Every day at dinner, we discussed the new things that she learned from SARAS. As parents, I and my husband are very thankful to you for the emails you sent out every day to summarize her daily activities and tell us what to expect on the next day. I also want to thank you for inviting us to attend SARAS last day. I really enjoyed your research presentation, which is very inspiring. Thank you very much again for this wonderful program!

Best regards,  
Erinn's mom

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