

## 2023-SARAS : Parent's Feedback

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

Thank you for all that you did to make SARAS both engaging and fun for the teenagers. Callie loved your jokes! And she told everyone your pun about "patience" instead of "patient."

My review:

I can't say emphatically enough how pleased I was with SARAS. The program opened the field of medicine a bit wider for my daughter, Callie. She was able to consider what it would be like to become an ophthalmologist or a pediatrician (the areas of medicine that interested her most at the end of SARAS). Callie truly enjoyed the experiential learning that the program offered. I saw a picture of her performing what looked to be chest compressions on a SIMS model. Hearing about the ambulance for stroke victims and seeing the medevac helicopter gave Callie insight into how much medicine relies on a team approach, which appeals to her outgoing personality. The program struck a good balance between being informative, interesting, and fun. The material covered piqued her desire to learn more, while at the same time allowed Callie to be in an environment with other students who have a similar passion to hers. She made some nice friends and on her last day before heading back to Massachusetts they attended a movie together and have been discussing when they could see each other next. Compared to some other colleges which offer similar programs SARAS was quite affordable. We live just outside Boston and the tuition for similar camps in our area are cost prohibitive. Being a native Long Islander myself, I was glad that Callie got to try a different cuisine each day at lunch. There is a rivalry in our home regarding which state has better food. I think New York went up a notch after SARAS. SARAS did an excellent job of informing students how to prepare themselves while in high school for a career in medicine. Learning about Test Takers and the requirements for combined BS/MD programs was particularly helpful. Of course, without Dr. Pentyala's enthusiasm the program could have been a check the box list of seminars. His sense of humor made my teen look forward to attending class each and every day, when she could have been sitting on the beach instead. I don't have any criticism of the program itself, and am not sure what I could mention that would improve it. Because Callie had such a wonderful experience. In short: the program was wonderful thanks to people like Dr. Pentyala.

Elinor

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Dear Professor Srinivas,

We hope you are doing well and did relax a bit after three weeks fulfilled with organizations, workshops, guest speakers, and dealing with around 140 young people full of energy. We are done with our program in USA and are now at home in Istanbul. It has been a very fruitful travel for us, especially spending 3 weeks at SUNY Stony Brook Renaissance Medical School SARAS program helped us to get an understanding how studying and living in USA will be for Hira.

Firstly, we as parents of Hira would like to thank you for your always positive and encouraging attitude. You helped us a lot especially during the registration process which we appreciate a lot and will never forget. Please always keep in mind you have friends in Istanbul. We will be happy to show you around and the places you cannot see as an ordinary tourist here. These include the best Turkish delight shops and Turkish cuisine, too.

Regarding the program you put together:

It was really a wonderful program which let the students learn about different branches of Medical Science and even some professions within a hospital and related with health management. Meanwhile we noticed that Hira acquired some medical and scientific information, too. Especially the workshops and lab assignments she liked a lot. And special thanks for the lab safety training course and certificate. Hira will participate in a lab research program here and this will help her a lot I guess. We also thank you for the SAT workshops for students and college admission information you provided both for students and parents. These two provided some hints and new perspectives for us. Lastly, thank you very much for providing lunches from different cuisines. I think this is a great idea. Although Hira is quite picky, still she had the opportunity to try different meals and tastes she wouldn't try otherwise. And she liked most of them. We hope to see you either here in Istanbul or in USA.

Our best wishes and best regards,

Selnur

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Hi Dr. Pentyala,

This is Paul. Thanks for the hard work in the past 3 weeks.

Here are the reflections from my son, Ian.

1. From hating LIRR commute to enjoy.
2. From tasting the lunch "OK" to yummy.
3. From feeling the seminars boring to knowledgeable.
4. From seeing other kids as strangers to friends.
5. From no idea about health care career to interest in being a Physical Therapist.
6. From unfamiliar with SARAS program to encouraging other friends to join next year.
7. From thinking Stony Brook University is my Dad's school to the school I want to apply for.

Best regards,

Paul

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My daughter, Ilayda, and I had a great SARAS experience. My daughter was really glad she was able to attend this program. Dr. Pentyala is an incredible person and professor, and you can tell how much he enjoys working with the kids. I appreciated all he did to help the kids and make the program enjoyable. I would like to thank him and all the professors who attended this program to give lectures and give the students hands on experience." Thanks again for everything.

Guven

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Hi Srinivas,

Diana had a great time in SARAS; she loved all the literature, research, and knowledge she got there. This is the best camp she could join. Thanks so much for organizing the program, Diana had a great time this summer, and the camp made a great impact on her science study path.

Chunbo

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Srinivas,

The program was so amazing, fun and educational that I have no words to express my gratitude. My daughters Yusra & Horria had fun and learnt a lot by participating in the program. Me and my wife like to thank you and your team for putting up such a nice program.

Regards,

Dilshad & Lubna

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Dr. Pentyala,

My daughter Radhika and I would like to say thank you so much for all the information and for an amazing program. I really appreciate your hard work. Hopefully will connect in the future.

Thank you

Uma

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Hi, Dr Pentyala:

The overall experience of SARAS is very good. Aimee was excited to go everyday. And told me a lot interesting lectures she attended. Thank you so much to make all those wonderful learning experience. !

Mian

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My son, Daniel, was excited to attend SARAS. He focused on every lecture. He decided to pursue his major through the camp. Thank you,

SOYOUNG

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Hello Dr. Pentyala,

Thank you for the wonderful organization and coordination of the SARAS program. Pranav found the lectures very interesting and insightful. There were a few topics (such as TERM, CANNABINOIDS etc.) in the program that furthered his interests and he is looking forward to pursuing research opportunities in those specific areas. He enjoyed all the workshops offered in the program. Thanks for taking care of the commute to and from the train station - definitely reduced parents' stress. Thanks for catering the food daily during the course of the program. Pranav enjoyed the food! This is a well thought out and executed program. Thanks for this wonderful opportunity for the kids. Best regards,

Pavithra

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Thank you for giving Jessica an opportunity to participate in the SARAS program. She enjoyed the program very much and came home excited to share information that she learned that day. Thank you for giving her an opportunity to learn fascinating knowledge and experiences. Thanks.

- Narinder

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Hi Dr Srini,

First of all let me thank you for engaging the kids for 3 weeks and providing them with such a great learning experience. Ria enjoyed her time there and is still deciding on what she wants to do. SARAS provided her an insight into a lot of fields she can venture into. We thank you and all the other faculty and staff who devoted their time to make this experience a lot more rewarding.

Sakshi

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Hi, I am super glad that I sent Olivia to this program. It was worth every penny, I heard about how good the food was! And I always looked forward to her recapping the lectures with excitement! I will definitely be recommending this program to my friends and colleagues! Thank you for all your hard work! - Tiffany

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Hi Dr Pentyala,

It was a pleasure to meet you on the talent show presentation, Alex is looking forward to be a student at Stony Brook medical program. Thank you again to you and your staff ( students ) making a great experience for the students.

Adriana

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Dear Dr. Pentyala , I can only say good things about this program. Mía excitement showed everyday while in the program. She gained some direction regarding her career goals and made some friends. For what I heard the RA's were amazing! She learned so much.

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Dear Dr. Srinivas Pentyala,

Thank you for organizing the SARAS program for so many years and for providing extraordinary help to local high school kids. Many kids went to medical schools after attending your program. My Daughter Subhikha ( Subhi), you probably still remember her. She attended the SARAS Program in 2019. She is currently attending a 7 year medical program in NYIT. My Son Prathik attended the current year program. Still he talks about the activities he participated in SARAS. Your program is so informative and inspiring kids to learn more in health science.

Thank you. *Selven*

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During the SARAS program, I was most impressed by how much Victoria enjoyed going there every day. She always shared with me what topics were presented, how much she learned, and how much fun it was. She was inspired by many speakers and showed high interest in some of their fields. Overall, I really appreciate SARAS program offers this opportunity that enlightens the kids and opens their horizon. Thanks for making this a fruitful summer! - Felice

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Hi Srinivas,

I appreciate your effort and the way you are involved in the program with curriculum and as well with students. Consider this email as thank you. Good luck.

Dalapati

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Thank you so much for organizing this program. My daughter learned a lot of medical things at the age of 15 that we learned only in med school. She enjoyed all workshops and the food provided. She also learned how to be independent in finding her own way commuting. She also enjoyed the questions/games and she said she wished she got some of those prizes. We are really grateful that this program was offered.

Edith

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

It was our pleasure sending our both kids to SARAS program, my elder one attended last year (2022) and younger daughter ( Sahitya) this year. We truly believe SARAS program provided a rich experience in medical field and ideas about preparatory exams as well. This year full-time SARAS was excellent, topics selected, hands on lab work and most importantly the encouragement you provide is exceptional. After coming home, my daughter explains, what they have done and we can see how much she liked the program and excited to attend. She did like working on ER dummy, inserting breathing tube to mannequin, Organ regeneration lecture (she said is the best) and off course the food offered at program ( I believe, she e-mailed most of food sponsors).

We are very happy that we sent our kids to SARAS program. I believe, this program provide some idea about choosing medical profession as career as well (it's Kids choice anyway). Thank you once again for conducting great program for kids. Wish you success in future programs.

Best wishes,

Kiran

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Hello Dr. Pentyala,

There are not enough words to express my appreciation. Through my eyes the program was a true success. It allowed my son Lucas to get wonderful exposure to the world of science as he prepares his career path. Each session provided sufficient information to open Lucas' mind to a possibility in that field. Lucas doesn't get excited about much; however, talks of emergency medicine and the workshops really caught his attention. He loved the helicopter tour and the on hands workshop with the dummy. This allows the student to step outside the traditional classroom setting and practice what they have been taught. This exposure has led him to apply as a volunteer EMT with our local ambulance team. Thank you for a wonderful experience.

Also, Lucas continues to share your mantras of "Network" and "Don't do anything for free". By the way the second mantra has cost me a lot. Wishing you all the best.

Regards, Frank

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

I just wanted to express how much fun my daughter, Jaslyn, ended up having at the SARAS camp. It was more fun than she expected to have and she learned a lot of new things too. It certainly broadened her knowledge and allowed her to learn a little about other fields of medicine that she wouldn't normally think about. Everyday she would come home and tell us about some of the interesting and not so interesting lectures that she had at camp. She especially enjoyed the different lunches that you provided. She liked the different variety of foods that was available. I especially enjoyed the end of day emails that you sent to recap the events of the day. It gave me an opportunity to ask her specific questions about the day.

We will be looking forward to sending our younger daughter to your camp as well when her time comes.

Warm regards,

Elizabeth

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At the beginning I was kind of skeptical if it was a right choice to let him take 3-week SARAS program not only because I wasn't sure that the medical school was for him but also he needed to focus on SAT PREP all through the summer. However my concern turned into confidence as soon as I felt his happy vibes and saw unusual chattiness when I was picking him up from the train station. First of all, he loved loved lunch menu there 😊. You know Food is seriously important to an epicure. He loved loved the people there too. He said some of the staff looked like Hollywood stars like Jack black and so on. He loved loved the trip by train. He felt he was more independent and enjoyed the time among peers. Some lectures were a little difficult for him to understand but others were good enough to stimulate his intellectual curiosity. He showed me his notebook that was filled with medical information. He was definitely encouraged, recharged, refreshed and redefined through the SARAS more than I expected and now he energetically works on SAT being open minded towards his future as a doctor. I truly appreciate everyone's devotion and hope you guys stay healthy and happy!!!

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Hello Professor Dr Pentyala

I would like to say thank you for providing such an educational and fun SARAS experience for my daughter. She really enjoyed the program and learned a lot. Not to mention the cultural variety of the catered lunch meals was well liked by the kids this year. We also enjoyed reading your informative yet humorous emails daily with the program recaps. I hope to have my son experience SARAS program next year as well. Cheers to SARAS program staff and all the educators and coordinators who participated and shared with the group. Thank You  
Nakia

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SARAS was such an incredible program. We have been looking for different programs for our children to help expose them to the many different career opportunities available to them! Hoping that they find something they are passionate about and will enjoy spending their career in. The SARAS program is just the kind of program that we were hoping to find. Ava not only enjoyed going every day, but she is now thinking about going into the medical field and pursuing one of the careers that was touched on. When I picked her up each day she would talk about it the entire car ride home and was excited to share the experience. She was telling everyone about it wherever we went and continues to share the stories. She also made some great friends along the way. She is truly excited about starting her future and I can't thank you enough for the experience you gave her! Oh and she thought you were extremely funny! She will remember this experience for a very long time!

Best regards,  
Erin

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

SARAS has ended, but the door to medicine is continually widely open to Ellis. She has learned so much, and in a fun way. What a wonderful three weeks! Thank you for running this successful program and giving Ellis the key to start her future career.

Linli

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

I am the parent of Abigail, and wanted to thank you for giving me a chance to express gratitude for your program and what it meant to us. I am an ER nurse and I wanted to show my daughter how the medical field can help our society and community. But the medical field is vast, and I only know a very little piece of it. Every day when she came back from camp, she showed me what she learned. Showing me what the sterile field is and how to don sterile gloves being one example. She never forgot to tell me about her lunch either. Three weeks passed so quickly and my daughter had fun and learned a lot about medicine. Thank you so much.

Jeong

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Hi Srini:

James would come home each day and tell us about his experiences during dinner time. He was so excited and enthusiastic about each day's events. Before starting the SARAS program James was unsure about the medical field

because he has so many broad interests in science, math and physics. However, this program enabled him to make a decision that the medical field is definitely for him. He loved meeting other students his age who were smart and passionate about medicine. He also loved your sense of humor and fun nature. James is very out spoken, speaks his mind and has a great sense of humor so being in this type of environment gave him the confidence he needed to pursue medicine. We want to thank you for organizing this amazing program with incredible medical experts!

Margaret & Jim

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Hi Dr. Pentyala

Thank you so much for providing such an amazing program for young adults. As an alumni of the Anesthesia residency program, I was excited for my daughters to participate. I really enjoyed hearing about each day's activities and lectures. It was really eye opening for them and a great overview of the different aspects of science and medicine. They were excited to go each day and they also enjoyed the wonderful cuisine! Thanks again for all of your efforts to give these kids a great experience!!

Denise

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

I wanted to take this time to thank you for your amazing updates before, during and after the SARAS program. Your communication has been outstanding. It is easy to see that the program would not have been as successful as it was without your foresight and guidance.

My son, Harry loved the program! Harry is interested in shadowing the areas that interest him the most. Harry found the lecture about cardiac stents to be captivating. He also enjoyed the lecture about intubation and hands-on CPR. In addition, he found the lecture about diabetes extremely interesting. Ortho was also one of his top lectures which I believe talked about a young girl with bone cancer and the surgery that was needed to be performed. He commented on a lecture that spoke about cleaning their hands and mopping. The lunches for the most part had rave reviews. He enjoyed the Halal food and the Indian food. Again, I can not thank you enough.

Kind regards,

Karen

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Dear Dr Pentyala:

I am Callie's father and want to report that Callie thoroughly enjoyed the SARAS camp at Stony Brook. She learned a great deal about your hospital, lab safety, and medicine in general. She also made many likeminded friends. Callie's late grandfather (my father) was a physician (Internal Med/GI) in the Boston area for many years and Callie saw a lot firsthand as both he and other family members faced illnesses. There are several health professionals in our family and Callie may be the next. Thank you for your leadership of the program.

Best Regards,

Russell

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Thank you for offering such an amazing program for our students! My daughter Ava is shy - but made friends through the program! She always came home with new information to share with us. Thank you to all of the amazing presenters! I am so happy my daughter could be a part of this amazing program - I would highly recommend it to others!

Cynthia

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I just wanted to let you know that I found the program for Tanmay great. He would tell us a new detail he learned every day which was great. The program is very educational and fun.

Thanks,

Hitesh

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

I wanted to reach out to express my heartfelt gratitude for including Tejasvi in the SARAS Summer Program at Stony Brook. Since the program started, Tejasvi has been coming home every day brimming with excitement, talking nonstop about the super interesting lectures she has been attending. Your dedication and passion as the director have undoubtedly made a profound impact on her experience. After meeting many experts, Tejasvi has expressed interest in orthopedics and cardiology. Your program has given her an incredible opportunity to explore various medical specialties, and her growing fascination with many fields is truly inspiring. As a parent, it's heartwarming to witness the joy and enthusiasm Tejasvi brings back from each session. Your dedication to educating young minds shines through, and I'm certain that this experience will have a lasting impact on her future choices. Your guidance and mentorship are greatly appreciated. Tejasvi has always been curious about the medical field, and your program has opened up new doors of possibilities for her. Thank you for creating an environment that fosters learning, growth, and self-discovery. We couldn't be more grateful for this opportunity and the impact it has had on our kid. \*\*miss your daily mails , really enjoyed reading.

With warm regards and appreciation,  
Sowjanya

Dear Dr. Srinivas,

My son Grayson, had a wonderful time at your program. This was an eye-opening experience for him in terms of the amount of work and dedication it will take to become a Physician. I was impressed by the variety and amount of detail that was involved in every presentation. My son came home with a notebook full of notes on each presentation. Most important was the resolve and determination that he acquired for completing his college applications and his desire to take the SAT again to improve his score. Overall, this was a valuable experience and I would highly recommend it to any student considering medicine as a career.

Lolita

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

Thank you for the wonderful & amazing 3 weeks SARA program. Abigail was excited about various medical fields of study, especially the hands-on experience, CPR, lumbar puncture, etc. We enjoyed and appreciated your daily updates. You and your team inspired these kids.

Jong

Hello Dr Srinivas

I am the father of Rhea and wanted to share my feedback with you of her experience at SARAS 2023. Rhea had an amazing experience at SARAS, despite being initially nervous due to not having any friends there. Thanks to Dr. Srinivas's friendly attitude and approach towards the students, she quickly made some really good friends during the program. The classes provided valuable exposure to the medical field through engaging lectures and hands-on labs. Dr. Srinivas's effective communication with parents daily made us feel involved in the learning process and kept us in the loop. Rhea also enjoyed the delicious daily lunches. She had a wonderful overall experience and highly recommends this program to anyone interested in the medicine field.

Parimal

My daughter had an informative experience during this three-week program and found her passion for dentistry. Thank you so much for this opportunity!

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

Hope this email finds you well! Thank you so much for being so connected to the whole group of SARAS 2023 and their parents via email, which I am missing now too. For being such a great mentor to our kids and most of all for putting in such great effort in SARAS. Majority of our concerns and questions regarding a career path in health sciences were answered, specially being just a few years old residents in US. Through out the course I myself was so eager to know what my daughter had learnt each day and it was so enriched that me being from Engineering side learnt so much about health sciences through her in just three weeks. Some times I wish, I would have joined it too,

may be next year.... 😊 Seemed like a pilot program for students to decide and perceive if they can really fit into health sciences or no, to understand what area is more of their interest and liking. The closing presentation on the last day was also very informative and productive for students looking into straight BS/MD path and it seemed like a good way to ensure a spot. Myself being a current student from Stony Brook ECE, have always seen diversity being respected and it made me delighted how comfortable Hunaina had been at SARAS even with her hijab and food restrictions. The environment you guys provided to these young people was commendable, it not only enhanced their knowledge but groomed them all over as a an individual. Looking forward for more such courses/activities.  
Laiba

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

My daughter, Sasha was fortunate to participate in SARAS program this year. I'd like to thank you for all the time and hard work that you and your team have invested into putting this outstanding program together. It has far exceeded our expectations. Sasha had been enrolled in several Stony Brook programs before and they all were absolutely wonderful but this one in particular stands out on so many levels. The widest range of topics, the amount of highly esteemed presenters, and, of course, the cornucopia of delicious meals every day are just a few things to mention. Sasha has always been interested in science. I'm a nurse and her father is a physicist and we've always encouraged her to pursue her interests and find opportunities to learn outside the school environment. We were very lucky that her school has ties with both Stony Brook University and Brookhaven National Lab, and she could participate in hands on scientific projects, including the BNL Lightsource facility, from such an early age. However, taking part in SARAS has expanded her scope of interests and got her thinking about all the opportunities out there in the medical field. She's considering going into medial related fields or even enrolling into the medical programs in Stony Brook now. Again, thank you so much for your support, encouragement, staying in touch throughout the entire program (the sheer amount of emails going out every day!) and for being an active proponent of networking and cooperation. Sasha learned so much this summer and we couldn't be happier for her.

With gratitude and best wishes,  
Ekaterina

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Dr. Pentyala,

Thanks for running your SARAS program again and for having our son, Alessandro, as part of your program. I am very happy with this program as Alessandro would come back in the evenings discussing the various programs, lectures and information he had been exposed to. My goal in having him attend this program was to broaden his knowledge and perspective on the various aspects to medicine and for him to get closer to it as he continues to down this path for his life and career. I think the program was wonderful and did largely what it set out to do which is allow young adults to get closer to the field of medicine to understand what opportunities exist. - Kurt

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Hello Dr. Pentyala,

We can't thank you enough for a fun-filled and super educational SARAS program for 3 weeks! Olivia had so much to talk about every day from interesting lectures. She also enjoyed the workshops, especially the workshop with the very expensive mannequin, the lumbar shot, and the CPR workshop. Olivia particularly honed on her note-taking skills with the notebook SARAS had provided in the beginning. Olivia also enjoyed the food very much, especially the special salsa you made for them. We are wondering when will it be on the market? Last but not least, we definitely really appreciated the daily enthusiastic, witty emails you sent. Without a doubt, you were very engaged and inspirational to the students and us as well. By the way, our boys, Ryan and Justin are SARAS participants from 2017. Ryan discovered his passion in the medical field and is now an aspiring medical school student. While Justin found his passion through SARAS, which was that he would not be going into the medical field. (No offense 😊) We wanted Olivia to have that opportunity as well, and we think she is leaning toward following Ryan's track. So SARAS did it again! Thank you! We are so happy to see that you and SARAS are still going strong, and we hope for the best for the many years to come. Sincerely, - Susan and Mario

*P.S. Olivia has been taking limes on our long car trips.*

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

I wanted to thank you for running the SARAS program at Stony Brook University. My daughter Ava couldn't get enough of it. She was thrilled to share details about the wonderful professionals she met everyday and the great hands on things she learned. I have also heard about how "cool" you are but most of all about how much you believe in these smart young students. I think the time spent in SARAS this summer was the absolute best way she could have spent it. Not only was this a resourceful program but it was a great way to build confidence, meet new like minded friends and feel welcomed in the health care field. Thank you.

Ramona

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Dear Dr. Srinivas Pentyala:

Thank you for all your hard work to make this camp a good experience for Gavin. We signed Gavin up to hope he can explore different areas in the medicine and help him to think about his future college and career path. We definitely think we achieved that goal and more. We asked him about the subjects and material covered each day, it is quite wide range of topics and we can tell he is engaged. Gavin learned a lot and it certainly opened the door for further exploring. Thank you.

Jun & Jian

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

I want to use this opportunity to thank you for the wonderful program you and your team put together. Although I never attended the classes in person (they are not meant for me), I saw all the activities through my daughter. The benefits were priceless- understanding the essence of time, social networking, academic learning, and self-confidence. What most programs will achieve in 1 year or more, your program did in one month. I have no doubt that this program has positively impacted my daughter- Ebube. For all the afore mentioned and more that I would not be able to enumerate in this email, my family and I are so grateful.

Thanks, Echey

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

I'm writing to express our great appreciation to you, and for the SARAS program which our daughter, Sabrina participated in. Each day that she went after her "a daily brain rest" she was eager to share much of what she learned, and we in turn learned so much too from her.

There was one day early on where she was very engaged and excited to impart what she learned and I commented on how she looked exhausted not physically, but from learning, and appeared to have a brain exhaustion but in a good way! The program ignited even more her interest, curiosity and excitement for science and medicine! She enjoyed interacting with and meeting other students & new friends, and enjoyed the train ride to and from the program and delicious lunches. There was even one day that we came on the train and accompanied her, headed to the city together with our extended family. On that day we were delighted to meet several other students whom appeared enthusiastic, energetic and engaged after their day at SARAS. We're thrilled she attended! Thank you again for all that you do, and to all who participated in providing this wonderful, memorable SARAS experience!

All our best,

Nicole and Humberto

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Hi Srinivas,

I am Victoria's father. 2023 SARAS ended on 7/28 but I am thinking that she is still with this fantasy program at Stony Brook University. Every time when I picked up Vicky at LIRR station, she would like to share her daily class activity, lunch menu, teammates' work, speaker's comments and of course - uncle Srimi's jokes - with me. I love to read your daily email about what happened in the class. Victoria is so fortunate to participate with this program. She did join various summer programs before but has not been satisfied like this one. The program couldn't be so successful without all you and your assistants' hard works. Also, I enjoy seeing all pictures and videos published from the program website. Thank you for making 2023 SARAS successful as M.I.7 and keep this wonderful program every summer. Best, Kenny

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Dr.Pentyala,

This is Sreya's mom. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in SARAS program. Sreya learned a lot from the lectures and workshops and was eagerly looking forward for the classes everyday. She enjoyed the intubation classes, was talking a lot about how exciting it was. As a parent I believe by attending the program this was a guide to direct her into the path of her college and career. This program has been an eye opener for her into the field of science. She mentioned about you too that you are very organized professional and understanding. Once again thank you for the opportunity provided to Sreya.

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

First of all big thanks to you, especially for organizing such a wonderful event, SARAS, for young kids, who are looking to pursue careers in medicine and science. Thanks to all the doctors who took the time to imbibe some concepts into their young minds. My daughter (Srikarthi), was very excited from the time we registered and the last day of the SARAS Program. Her excitement was so high that even though she was not so familiar with Bollywood dance, upon your second email request for talent show registration, she and her friend decided to participate. They did their best by learning some dance moments. Especially, as parents felt very nice reading your emails on a daily basis, describing all the activities, attached with some humor in it. The Program, really helped, my daughter in making a firm decision, to pursue a career in medicine and we as parents want our kids to take the right decision in their areas of interest. This program really helped to strongly build their DREAM to be a doctor. The guidance for college admissions helped in guidance to have better planning. Thank you for doing your best for igniting the kid's minds for their DREAMS.

Phani

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Hello,

My name is Nina, mother of Albert. First of all, I want to congratulate you on the successful execution of the 2023 SARAS program. It was amazing to observe the amount of organization and detail that went into each and every day behind the scenes. My sincere gratitude to you and your team for this accomplishment.

From a parent's perspective, it's invaluable the kind of experience this program affords a high school student, like Albert, who is about to start applying to colleges in the fall, pursuing a pre-med track. The exposure to faculty, the various topics and workshops covered during the program, the college classroom experience, as well as an opportunity to network and make connections are something that he wouldn't be able to get elsewhere. Albert is more confident in his chosen path than he was before, and we are glad that this experience enabled that confidence. It was really great reading your emails at the end of the day and then hearing and seeing the experience through Albert's eyes, highlighting the topics he enjoyed the most. We also appreciated your positivity and sense of humor, as I am sure the kids did as well. As SBU alumni (B.S. Computer Science, WISE, 2003), I was extra proud that my son was able to have this experience at Stony Brook and that he will seriously consider going there in the Fall of 2024. Thank you for inspiring the next generation of medical professionals!

Nina

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

Thank You so much for providing the kids this unique opportunity of learning about the field of medicine and biotechnology. Saumya has learnt many things about this field. This experience will help her understand the career options ahead of her.

Surabhi

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Hi Dr. Pentyala,

Thank You so much. It was a really amazing SARAS program. I can't even begin to explain how awesome this program was. My daughter Radhika really loved her time there. It was very well organized and very well explained. She got a lot of information and very helpful tips. She made a lot of closeknit friendships and was inspired by so many of the mentors. Thank you.

Uma

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Dr. Pentyala,

Can't thank you enough for making the SARAS program a great learning experience bundled with so much fun for my daughter Saumya and many of her friends who joined the program. This was the best Summer camp for Saumya, which she won't forget. This has also helped raise her interest in medicine for further college studies. The ongoing updates and instructions for commuting etc., you have provided has made parents job so much easier, special thank you for that. I really enjoyed the last day events while also learnt a lot on Navigating College Search. The Talent show was wonderful, and loved the energy these kids brought to this program and how amazingly smart and creative they are. She was also selected for the Biotechnology Lab Techniques program, which she also enjoyed, but her favorite was SARAS! 😊

Thanking you, volunteers, university staff and participating Professors for really making this program an enjoyable learning experience for the kids. Please share my appreciation with all! Regards and best wishes!

Arvind

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Good morning Dr. Pentyala,

Just wanted to send a quick email thanking you for organizing the Saras program. My daughter Julianna had lots to tell us each evening after she got off the train. Additionally, she found the SAT prep very helpful. She also enjoyed all the yummy lunches! Thank you for everything!

Susan

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Hello Dr Srimi - I am so glad that my daughter Hiba attended this valuable summer session and she enjoyed every single day learning a lot of information and details related to the medical field. We really appreciate your effort and guidance for our kids which you are contributing in fun ways and seems like you are a great inspiration for all SARASers. In 3 years my son will also join the session and hopefully he will also get the same amount of knowledge from you!!! Thanks

Shahnila

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Hello Dr . Srinivas

We are really happy to see our daughter growing up to be independent, commuting on the train every day, and experiencing college life from morning to evening. When I pick her up from the train station every day, she talks about her experiences, sometimes as if she has already completed that profession. I wanted to thank you for one major thing: so far, she has been shy and scared to talk about a medical career, but after this program, she has started to say that she is at least considering a medical career, which is a major step for her thanks to your program. Your daily email updates have kept us informed of what is happening every day in detail. Your service to the community cannot be thanked enough. It takes a lot of commitment and passion, which I see in you. Please continue your service and let us know if there is any way we can support your efforts. Note: The food choices were great, and they were thoughtfully planned for the kids.

Shan & Sreema

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I would like to thank you and the team that made this amazing experience possible for all of our young kids, specially for my daughter Luna, she learned so much every day she attended the SARAS program, this program showed her a world of opportunities in how she can help our community. Luna just signed into the Veterans Home volunteer program, and this is just the beginning. By the way I enjoyed reading your emails and I appreciate your good sense of humor.

Claudia

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Hi Dr. Srimi,

I am the father of Anika. First of all I would like to say thank you. It was a nice and wonderful program. Previously she has not decided what she wants to do in future but after attending she got interested in the medical field and She wants to proceed with that in future. Every day she learned something new.

Rakesh

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Dear Dr Pentyala

Thank you for making this year's SARAS a fun learning experience. Over the past three weeks, my daughter Christina and I, had the chance to discuss the many subjects she covered during SARAS and the alternatives for a possible career in science. Getting a first-hand exposure from experts, she is now in a better position to make the decision on the science area she will focus in College. Again, thank you for the positive energy you put in making SARAS 2023 a success. Sincerely,

Dimitrios

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Hi Dr Srinivas,

Thanks for allowing my daughter (Gursimer), who is currently entering sophomore year at Hofstra to undergo SARAS program for 2023. We looked for regular feedback from her on daily basis. Initially she was hesitant but as the course progressed and she found herself involved with some hands on exercises through the program she started to enjoy more. Given that you provide the students with experiences from difficult specialty throughout, the medical field, really helped her out. She was initially inclined to do emergency medicine but now it's convinced that that is the field that she would like to progress. She definitely got motivated through your program and hoping she participates in extracurricular activities, such as research and volunteering, which can provide more, humility and passion towards field of medicine. I wish I had similar experience when I was undergoing training but as you know the world was different back then. Being a physician myself, I can't thank you enough for taking time out to do this for future potential doctors, hoping Simer keeps in touch with you as this experience was priceless and hope you keep all motivated to pursue their passion in medicine.

Thanking you

Bhupinder

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

I hope this email finds you in the best of spirits. I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for the unforgettable summer camp experience that you provided for all of us. Your dedication and efforts truly made it a remarkable and enriching time for everyone involved. Throughout the camp, your passion for the subject matter was evident in the engaging lectures and thought-provoking discussions. You managed to strike the perfect balance between fun and learning, which made the entire experience enjoyable and meaningful. Your knowledge and expertise in the field were incredibly inspiring, and it encouraged many of us to explore new areas of interest. My son came home telling us about the excitement of the helicopter or lab etc! Moreover, I want to extend my appreciation for your patience and willingness to address our questions and concerns. Your approachable and supportive demeanor created an environment where we felt comfortable to share our thoughts and seek guidance. It is evident that you genuinely care about your students' growth and success, both academically and personally.

The camp activities and exercises you organized were not only educational but also fostered camaraderie among the participants. The collaborative projects allowed us to work as a team, learn from one another, and build lasting connections that I'm certain will extend beyond the camp.

This camp has been an invaluable experience for me, and I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of it. It has undoubtedly deepened my understanding of the subject matter and broadened my perspective on various related topics. Once again, thank you for your unwavering commitment and dedication to ensuring that the camp was a resounding success. Your passion for teaching and mentorship shines through, and I feel privileged to have Dhilan be under your guidance. Please convey my heartfelt thanks to any other staff members who contributed to making this camp a reality. I look forward to carrying forward the knowledge and memories from this experience as I continue to grow and pursue my son's academic journey in medicine.

If there is any way I can contribute or assist in future camps or academic initiatives, please do not hesitate to reach out. I would be more than happy to be involved. And thank you for feeding him from his favorite restaurant.

Respectfully,

Ritesh & Varsha

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Hi Dr Pentyala

It was great to read your emails at the end of each day. We are so proud that both AYAD and RABIA did good and were so punctual to get additional knowledge in medicines. Stony Brook team deserves a big applause for this program that gave junior doctors to learn every single terminology of medicine. We were so happy when we had discussions with our twins every day on different topics. Also got free consulting from them on day to day medical issues. Specially loved your attachment with the kids and having a good time was wonderful. We would love to send them for any future program you will conduct in hospital. Again, it was great program and the entire team at stony brook is the best. Thanks.

FAKHAR & SHAZIA

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

Thank you so much for a wonderful experience for our son Noah. He enjoyed telling us about all of the different topics he learned about each day.

Jason and Michele

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Hi Dr. Pentyala,

Thank you so much again for this wonderful and superbly well organized summer program. It opened up my daughter' eyes and mind to the different aspects of health science and professions. She learned a lot and is really grateful for the opportunity to be able to spend the last 3 weeks at Stony Brook with experts and fellow students.

- The 3 week program is perfect, it allows families/students to have a little time to themselves and get organized after a hectic school year; it also leaves the month of August open for vacation or other activities before the summer ends
- The shuttle bus arrangement to match the LIRR train schedules is such a big help for families who can't drive their kids on a daily basis.
- The daily catering is much appreciated and offers a variety of options. Feeding 125+ people is no easy task! THANK YOU again!
- The content of the program is really enriching - it introduces students to many different aspects of health sciences and career paths. It really helped pique their interests so that they can continue in their learning journey to learn and explore more. They get a better idea of what they would like to pursue further - it's not something they could get out of their regular high school curriculum.
- The college admission workshop was really helpful for me as a parent.
- Your daily communication summarizing what they learned was so helpful (and funny too :) ) The communication/instructions before the start of the program was very clear and helpful.
- The program is just so well run and enriching - it really reflects how much effort has been put in by people who really care and are passionate about what they do, passionate about inspiring the next generation.

Thank you again! Enjoy the rest of your summer, and good luck to your salsa business! :). Regards.

Michelle (parent of Mia)

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Amy was very happy and when she came back ehme very day, and she would like to share with me her experience, especially the strange things:) good lunches. Very professional team, especially the humorous leader Professor Srini 😊. My child learnt more about medicine. Frankly speaking, far exceeded expectations.

Thank you so much Stony Brook University, Medical school, Anesthesiology department, Dr.Srini and his team, and all the experts and volunteers!

Yuning

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

Thank you ( and your staff members) so much for this wonderful program. It helped Alex, my son to grow his love for the medicine field. It was a joy for me , as a mom to see how excited he was every day , evening, sharing about his

days , what he learned and he liked the most on that day. He was excited about each field of study , in particular the EMT workshop. He considers Stony Brook as one of his top list choices . He was very impressed by the orthopedic surgery.

I enjoyed reading your funny and informative emails, feeling your love for kids.

As well, the actual activities he did in the SARAS program were a tool in opening his mind to new ideas and career paths. ( the sports medicine physicians based on how they told him how they interact and heal athletes).

He liked a lot that he was able to talk to many medical experts.

As a parent, it was fun attending kids talent show and listening to their opinions.

He liked also the variety of the food and snacks.

He wants to go in the medical field and this amazing program made him to explore different areas and roles in the medical field. I appreciate a lot your efforts making happen this SARAS program.

Sincerely

Adriana

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I just wanted to reach out and say that the SARAS program was a great success in terms of reaching out to my daughter, Fatima. I loved how she came home daily talking about what she learned in the program and the generous varieties of meals. I feel the program did a great job in exposing different aspects of health care and research. I hope Fatima takes what she learned in SARAS as an opportunity to pursue a career in the sciences/ health care. Also, thank you for the humor. It really created a comfortable environment for her.

Thank you,

Shaista

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Dear Srini,

Join them and become a kid is a great suggestion, and enjoy the moment.

Also, Angelina wasn't sure if my previous email would count as parent feedback, so she made me write another one :) It was the first time Angelina took public transit by herself, and I am glad to see she was able to manage her time and commute smoothly during the whole program. As an added bonus, she was able to make a friend during the program and train ride. It was extremely helpful exposing the students to various medical fields and listening to subject experts. Angelina was too anxious about having "real" talent to be on the talent show. Having watched the talent show, she realized it was not as intimidating as she originally thought.

Sincerely,

Andrew

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Dr. Pentyala;

It is hard to believe that after all the anticipation, preparations and family discussions regarding the SARAS program, it has already come to an end. We must begin by thanking you and your wonderful team for all the time and energy you all put into this wonderful program. Viktor went from being a typical teenager who we could barely get any details from on a typical school day, to this engaged, curious and forward-thinking young man. He came home daily after SARAS full of stories, details and interesting events from his day. SARAS has sparked his interest in medicine in a way that we as parents had not witnessed prior to SARAS, and for that we are eternally grateful. We could see the fascination and engagement building daily, and honestly the entire family is sad that the experience has now come to an end. We remain amazed at how you manage to put this program together on a yearly basis, and honestly how you are able to obtain the level of expertise in the medical professionals who are willing to give their time for the young doctors of tomorrow. Viktor told us that he has already reached out to you to arrange a meeting to further discuss the opportunities available for pursuit at Stony Brook for his future. We are thrilled with his newly sparked curiosity and forward-thinking approach, and we owe much of that to you and your team. Once again, thank you for your devotion, hard work and commitment to the program and look forward to crossing paths with you again at some point. With respect & gratitude,

Maria & Zvonko

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We just wanted to thank you and Stony Brook University for the engaging 3 weeks of participation for Emma. She did not want it to end. She even told us that a residential component would be great to continue the conversation after hours. The different food options complimented the variety of daily topics and focuses. She enjoyed the hands on labs and working with actual medical equipment. Emma learned so much for a student just finishing her 9th grade year. She never forgot to wear her lanyard and we know she appreciated the organization, the scheduled presentations and activities with her new peer friends. The program has certainly helped solidify her plans to study in a field of medicine. The list of fast track programs that were emailed to us/her is truly appreciated for further research. Thanks for a wonderful opportunity and please thank the sponsors for their time and financial help to make such a program thrive. The hospital truly has a wealth of professionals wanting to make a difference for our students! Thank you! Sincerely,  
Marilyn and Thomas

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Dear Dr. Pentyala, thank you for all your hard work to make this program possible. I enjoyed Angela coming home and telling me about all she had learned every day. The environment seemed very positive and I'm most definitely sure it was. This program was extremely helpful and was very informative! I like that they have many opportunities to ask questions and interact. Thank you again! Mei

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Dear Dr. Pentyala:

We found out about the SARAS program late, and it was past the due date for registration. But, thank you so much for the opportunity that you gave to my son. My son would like to pursue medical school and medical research for his future, and he started his research, but he did not have chance to volunteer at hospital or other medical related working environment due to the pandemic. This was not long but a challenging path, and I really like that he could have chance to know more and see more to make sure this is what he really has passion for. I do appreciate this program to provide him whole picture of medical practice and research. He started with going himself and ended with making lots of friends. I saw him happily going every day, and he talked something he learned and he likes. He gets more clear for his passion and his college plan. This is really great program to help the kids actually understand the medical field and help them to confirm their passion. I believe this program will continue and benefit more kids. Best, Yenhui (Matthias mom)

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Hello Dr. Pentyala,

My son, Ayush enjoyed the program. I as a parent appreciated your efforts and enthusiasm; Ayush definitely felt it. Thank you for your dedication. Purbasa

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Hello Professor Dr Pentyala:

I would like to say thank you for providing such an educational and fun SARAS experience for my daughter. She really enjoyed the program and learned a lot. Not to mention the cultural variety of the catered lunch meals was well liked by the kids this year. We also enjoyed reading your informative yet humorous emails daily with the program recaps. I hope to have my son experience SARAS program next year as well. Cheers to SARAS program staff and all the educators and coordinators who participated and shared with the group. Thank You. Nakia

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Hello Dr. Srini,

Thank you so much for putting together this SARAS program. This program provided unique experience to our daughter, not only academically but in real life experience. Now she is able to commute long distances without anyone shadowing which boosts her confidence level and she becomes more independent. What I feel like is that Radhika really enjoyed hands-on experiences for example doing workshops, labs, working with manikin and also analyzing bacterial growth. She made lots of new friends, lots of doctors in research and in high positions. Before this program Radhika would not want to see herself as a medical professional but after this program she gained an interest in the medical field. We would definitely enroll our younger daughter in this program and recommend other parents to enroll their kids. Thank you, Neha and Jayesh.

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