

## **2024 – SARAS : Parents feedback**

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

I can't thank you enough for SARAS. The enthusiasm that came across through your emails is the same enthusiasm you show the kids each and every day. My husband and I were so impressed with everything yesterday. Congratulations on 20 years of SARAS and I hope you continue doing this for at least 20 more years. I hope that you will teach my younger daughter when she's ready to join SARAS (she's going into 5th grade now). Every day, I waited for your 4pm emails telling us what the kids did that day. And when I picked up Ishika from the train station, she told me all of that and that too with so much interest. She couldn't wait to get back to SARAS everyday (she didn't like the fact she had to get up early, but she just loved coming to SARAS). She always talked about you with so much passion. She told us how funny, smart and incredible you are. And I must say, my husband and I both couldn't agree with her more. After meeting you and hearing about you from your colleagues and students ...you truly are an amazing doctor, professor and more importantly such a humble human being. It was our honor that you taught our daughter. Thank you for an incredible 3 weeks and I hope Ishika will get to study with you and work for you in the future. Thank you,

Daneet

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Just wanted to send some feedback on the SARAS program as my daughter Violet had a wonderful experience this summer. She has a strong interest in the medical field but wanted more info on the various professions that make up the field. This program provided just that along with the added bonus of hands-on workshops that were very exciting and interesting to my daughter. She loved everything about the program including commuting on the train, making new friends, learning from the speakers, participating in the workshops and (certainly not least of all) enjoying the catered lunches. The program was such a valuable experience and I would highly recommend it to anyone considering it! Thank you again for running such a wonderful and engaging program! Thanks.

Alison

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for the incredible three-week medical program that my daughter, Ishpreet, recently completed under your guidance. She has spoken very highly of the program and the invaluable experiences it provided. From the engaging lectures to the hands-on activities, she has learned a great deal and gained a deeper appreciation for the field of medicine. It has been a transformative experience for her, and I have seen her enthusiasm and passion for medicine grow tremendously. Thank you for your dedication, expertise, and the effort you put into making this program so enriching. Your commitment to educating and inspiring young minds is truly commendable. We are deeply grateful for the positive impact you have had on Ishpreet's educational journey.

Amardeep

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The SARAS program has been such a wonderful program. Every night my daughter tells me all the things she has learned that day and what she had for lunch. I feel this program has gotten her more interested in healthcare and I can tell she learned a lot. Also, thank you for providing transportation for the kids taking the LIRR every day. This program was very professional and well thought out.

Amy

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Hi Srini,

Thank you so much for running such a wonderful program filled with information and fun. Every day on our drive back home Sadhana filled me with all the fun and information she gathered for that day. It is a well-oiled program, run very efficiently. Happy to see that so many students utilize the knowledge. Really appreciate all your daily emails with the updates which definitely gives us an idea on the topics covered. Once again kudos to you and your TEAM. Thank you so much for everything.

Suguna

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Dr. Pentyala,

I just wanted to send you a quick note to let you know how impressed I was with the SARAS program that Sophia attended this past 3 weeks. We weren't sure exactly what to expect when she signed up for it. All we knew was that she aspires to be a doctor of some sort. This program allowed her access to information that she never would have been privy to without attending. She now has the knowledge she needs to make more informed choices about her future and the best ways to make them happen. Not only did she acquire so much knowledge about the different medical fields, she also made a whole new group of friends and she enjoyed all of the different lunch choices!! I attended the final day's events and I was especially impressed with the Stony Brook Admissions counselor's vast amount of helpful information regarding applying for college. I felt like I wanted her to stay even longer. My older daughter is a Stony Brook student. She finished her sophomore year and she is majoring in Psychology and looking into her Masters in Psychology at Stony Brook. I would love to be able to pick your daughter's brain about that as well. Overall, this experience was fantastic for all of us. I would love to be able to keep in touch with you in the future. Thank you for all of your efforts as well as the effort of your team. Together you all made it an incredible experience.

Catherine

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

Thank you so much to you, all the speakers, and the program staff for the wonderful three weeks of the SARAS program. It has been incredibly helpful for our son Eric in exploring and deepening his love for the medical field. Eric had an amazing time at SARAS, the best summer he's ever had. This incredible program has allowed him to explore different areas and roles within the medical field. Every day, Eric shared with us during dinner the new and fascinating topics he learned at SARAS. The program has helped him gain clarity on which field he would like to focus on. Whenever we have medical-related questions, Eric acts as a doctor, explaining things from a medical perspective and helping us to handle them properly. He even helped his brother with a cut and performed a 'mini-surgery' on me to remove a splinter! Additionally, the food was great, and he enjoyed the variety offered. Thanks to all the

restaurants that contributed to SARAS. Lastly, we always love to read your enthusiastic and informative daily emails (we miss them now!). We truly appreciate all your efforts in making the SARAS program such a rewarding and memorable experience.

Chuyu & Guimei

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Hi Dr. Pentyala

SARAS is a fantastic program for high school students. My son Jimmy really loves it. It was fun to explore various areas during the program. He truly got a lots of inspiration. It was also a pleasure to read your enthusiastic and informative email daily. Thank you and the team for putting together a wonderful program! - Cindy & Matt

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

Wow, Congratulations on your 20th Anniversary of running a very successful program at Stony Brook's SARAS for inquisitive and motivated students! You and your team are very dedicated and enthusiastic. Thank you for all your emails and keeping us all informed. My daughter, Kerrienne, told me about the wide range of lectures, workshops and hands on experiences from many aspects of health care. On the last day when parents were invited to the final ceremonies and the talent show I was very impressed with your dedication and positive personality. I was also very impressed with all.

Best Regards, Kathryn

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

My daughter, Fiona, was very enthusiastic about attending the SARAS program. She'd come back home everyday with a smile (and a full stomach) with lots of stories about what she did that day or who she talked to. It amazed me how there were so many people from different regions such as Minnesota that came all the way here to attend this program! I do hope you continue running SARAS as it's a lovely opportunity for those interested in the Pre-Med route.

Sincerely, Claire

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Dear Dr Pentyala,

Thank you so much for your wonderful program. My daughter, Kati, joined your excellent program this summer, and she learned a lot within the medicine field knowledge. What she learned and what she most enjoyed on that day was particularly the EMT workshop. Katie was really impressed by the orthopedic surgery—I believe her experience here will help her realize her dream of becoming a doctor. I enjoyed reading your funny and informative emails as I could feel your love for the kids. As parents, we are so happy to see Katie show interest in medicine and we hope she will have an opportunity to pursue a career in the medical field. Again, thank you for your hard work, humor, and kindness. It has really created a commodious environment for her.

Sincerely, Frank

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Dr. Pentyala,

I want to truly thank you for a memorable and educational experience for my daughter Cariss and her friend. While they admittedly were caught on their phones - perhaps more than once - and spent my hard-earned money on Starbucks, they left with tangible and valuable experiences and a greater understanding of the multiple facets of health care. Bonuses to the program included SAT preparation information, hands-on experiential learning and so much more. I thank you because while I do not know that I would feel comfortable with my daughter intubating me, I do know that if we were alone on an island with no one else present and I lost an airway, I am confident that following the SARAS program, I would be in good hands and breathing much better! Can we also speak about your emails? I absolutely loved the recaps and I believe my daughter did also because one day when we were driving home (around 4:15 pm), she said "Uncle Sirini didn't send an email yet." No sooner did she say that, we left the trees of Nicolls Road and came to an unobstructed cell tower, she refreshed her phone screen and there your email was. The emails were fun and helpful in refreshing her recollection when she had a fogged memory of the earlier day's events. After an Uncle Sринi email, she had FULL recollection. I believe the highlights for her were the interactive sessions, hands-on activities and lunch on the last day - I heard it was really good and wished that I could have come downstairs to partake. Overall, this was an amazing program and I am so glad my daughter had an opportunity to experience it. Thank you for your commitment to the program and its continued success!

Patricia

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I couldn't be any happier for my daughter. Attending the SARAS program has been eye opening and has given her a sense of independence. I thank you all for giving her such a wonderful experience. I'm quite sure she will cherish it forever. I have read the emails on the daily activities, and I must say you guys were thorough. She truly enjoyed it and shared her experiences with us daily.

Dawn

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Dr. Pentalya,

I want to express a great big THANK YOU to you, the speakers, staff and other team members for an amazing experience for our daughter, Pria! The program exceeded all of our expectations and I was thoroughly impressed with the level of organization from start to finish. Your unwavering dedication and engagement with the students was apparent and is without a doubt unmatched! My daughter wasn't quite sure what to expect at the beginning, but I must say she looked forward to coming each and everyday and did not want to miss a single session! The program really expanded her mind to the different aspects and avenues of medicine that she seeks to pursue someday. We thank you so much for allowing her to be a participant, it was truly a great opportunity and exposure all around!

With gratitude, Mrs. Backer

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Dr. Pentyala

I am Namrata , Aarav's mom. Thank you so much for putting together such a great program and all your dedication. I definitely saw Aarav's enthusiastic response starting when I picked him up Day 1. He exclaimed, "Maybe I should be CEO of a hospital!". Over the course of 3 weeks, he expressed interest

in several fields of medicine and research that were presented. Aarav was able to meet and interact with some great faculty at Stony Brook and is hopeful to work with them in the future. I definitely think that SARAS helped him be more confident in speaking with researchers and physicians.

Namrata

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Mr. Pentyala,

I enjoyed your humorous email after each day. Made me smile. I would like to say that I really appreciate that Angelina had this opportunity to learn about all the ins and outs of medical fields. Each day, when I picked her up, we talked about who she met and what she learned each day. I could hear the excitement in her voice. This experience was both inspiring and educational for both of us. Thank you so much for this experience and Angelina certainly has better ideas on where and how she wants to start her career in the medical field.

Eun

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Dear Dr. Srinivas Pentyala,

Congratulations on 20 yrs of this program. What an accomplishment! Nicholas was inspired to learn about the field of medicine because both his parents are physicians but he was especially looking forward to this opportunity because his older brother, Daniel, had participated a few years prior post Covid restrictions. The program provided an amazing introduction to medicine for both my children. It was easy to arrive on campus because of the coordination with the LIRR and Shuttle Bus. It was a fun learning environment due to your wonderful sense of humor and the various tasty treats that were always well appreciated. The Helicopter Pad was a great new addition that left quite an impression on all the participants. There were never any complaints and they were always eager to attend the next session. Thank you for providing such great insight into the varied fields of medicine which then motivated the students to perform at their best possible level. Nicholas and Daniel would both look forward to returning as alumni in the near future. Best regards,

Flavia

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

Thank you for the opportunity you've provided the children to attend the SARAS program. I can't fully express how much I appreciate this program. I was so impressed when my daughter, Kayla came home each day excited about attending. She shared how much she learned from each topic presented, was inspired by the speakers, and thoroughly enjoyed the workshops. I also appreciate the daily meals provided during the program —Kayla especially enjoyed them! Overall, I'm deeply grateful that the SARAS program offers such a wonderful opportunity to inspire and expand the horizons of the kids. Thank you for making this summer so enriching.

Ginsey

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Our son, Brady, attended the SARAS program this summer and absolutely loved it. We were very impressed with the professionals selected to speak with these young adults about their medical paths.

Everyday our son came home with a wealth of information and exposure to areas of medicine that he may not have been familiar with. This program gives high school students an opportunity to take a glimpse inside different avenues of medicine available. Our son was particularly impressed with the EMT presentation and now is asking to volunteer for the local ambulance company. We are grateful to all the professionals that volunteered their time to these young adults as they begin taking their first steps toward their future careers. Thank you,

Nicholas and Heather

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Dear Dr.Srini & SARAS Team,

It was a pleasure to attend and meet you in person on the final day of the program and to experience first hand, the enthusiasm and energy you have instilled upon these children. None of this this would have been possible if not for your visionary leadership and commendable responsibility on this worthy project. As parents of the participants, we thank you and your team for this fantastic undertaking which we were very impressed and believe you have over-delivered with the entire organization of the program. Our son has been showing some interest and has been slowly working towards the field of medical/health sciences in HS. Getting involved in a program such as SARAS is a great opportunity for him to get exposed to numerous options and specific areas in medical science that he could develop an interest and build upon. Further, listening to and interacting with industry experts, such as yourself and your colleagues and also to get a glimpse of the 'hands-on' innovative work they do in real world, would be a rare and a priceless opportunity, especially for high school students. Again, none of this would have been the same if not for your charismatic, energetic, caring, funny but yet very professional and academic approach towards these teenagers. The experience definitely would have stamped a lasting impression and a positive impact in their lives. Thank you for your service. Our only complaint as parents is that you have spoiled these kids with some great food choices throughout the program and now that we often hear complains and mocking comments on the home-cooked food. But given the impressive work that you and your team have done, we could live with that. Great work, thank you and all the best for future SARAS programs.

Kind regards. Mark

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My twin boys, Airas and Tabish, started the program with excitement. But perhaps the excitement was narrow in thought. They assumed they'd learn about being a physician and what that entails. That was enough to excite them and apply. But what they weren't prepared was to learn about so much within medicine (multiple disciplines), biomedical, EMT, physical therapy, trauma, and more. It opened their eyes to how fast the field is and the opportunities that are out there. As a parent we try to tell and educate our children about career paths but seeing it first hand was amazing. Every night we make a point to eat dinner together and share our days. Every night during SARAS we heard about their adventures from the emergency helicopter to tourniquets. Thank you for making their summer memorable and opening their eyes.

Best regards, Homira

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

We hope this message finds you well. As parents, we wanted to express our gratitude for the wonderful experience our daughter, Tiffany, had during the SARAS program. Every day, Tiffany would come home excited to share what she had learned. She was constantly eager to discuss the lesson from explaining why kidney stones are so painful to describing how normal eye surgeries are performed. It has been truly impressive to see how much she has learned from the program. We are also grateful for the opportunities Tiffany had. Thank you so much for providing such an enriching and enjoyable program. We are grateful for the knowledge and experiences that Tiffany has gained and look forward to seeing where her passion for healthcare takes her.

Mei

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

Thank you so much for organizing this incredible program. My daughter, Hallie, had a wonderful learning experience. Before she started the program, she knew she wanted to do something in the medical field but was unsure about medical school. After having completed the three weeks, she is now certain that she will be applying to medical school and we couldn't be happier!

Jennifer

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Hi Dr. Srinivas Pentyala,

I hope this email finds you well. I'd like to say thank you for giving Jessica the opportunity to participate in SARAS 2024. The program seemed well organized and it provided Jessica with a deeper understanding of many different medical fields. She was not excited for the program at all before it started, she said I ruined her summer, but she ended up loving the experience.

Jose

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Dear Dr. Srinivas Pentyala,

...or should I say Srini! I must say I am enlightened by your emails and thoroughly have enjoyed reading them, as well as hearing how you engage with each of the students. Isabella, although a bit shy, thoroughly enjoyed the program. Isabella has been interested in going into the field of Medicine since she was a small child. This gave her the great opportunity to learn about the multitude of careers in the medical field that exist (and more). She was very impressed with VA Hospital SB lunch and learn, and would like to volunteer there in the future. One of her favorite lectures was from the Urologist. I enjoyed hearing each day about what she learned. We had such great discussions each night when I got home from work about her day, what she learned, what she brought home, and what she ate or did not eat, lol. She also went there not knowing anyone, and made some new friends. It sounds like the young adults/teens that attended were all lovely. I want to thank you for your time, hard work, engagement, and passion for inspiring young minds. I hope you have a wonderful summer. Stay well.

Julie

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Hello Dr. Pentyala!

I would like to preface by saying that my daughter was extremely nervous going into this program, as she felt lost regarding her career path. After talking to friends and family in the medical field, we were recommended this program, and I couldn't be more thrilled with the outcome. Through this experience my daughter was able to grow as a person and learn so much about her self interests. Everyday she would have something new to share with my husband and I. As a mom, seeing her pursue her passion, make new friends, and believe in herself is all one can ask for, and I have SARAS to thank for it. I can't wait to see what the future holds for her, and I can't thank you enough for providing an amazing learning environment for her! Will definitely be recommending this program to other friends and family!

Kanchan

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Srini.

As you know Kloe enjoyed the program immensely. She raved about the lectures being interesting and the speakers engaging. Food was great, she loved the Indian and Thai but those are always favorites. What a great production you put on. She definitely made some connections with kids and faculty and hopefully this will help on the journey to choosing the right career path. I will let you know more in a few years. Thank you for everything. - Carl

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Dear Dr. Pentyala & leadership team:

Thank you to the Dept. of Anesthesiology and all the leaders who helped facilitate SARAS year after year! And of course, a special thank you to the master mind behind this amazing opportunity, Dr Pentyala! We appreciate the endless effort, passion, and dedication you put forth every year to host SARAS! Congratulations on your 20th year and I hope the program continues! My son, Garrick (rising 10th grader), had such an unforgettable experience, and I am glad I didn't wait until his sophomore or junior year of high school to enroll in the program. It was such a great eye opener for him! Every day after class, he would tell me which experts he learned from and what he thought about their field of expertise. Yes, I would hear it all...the good, the bad, the ugly! ?? He enjoyed the clinical workshops a lot, especially the Clinical lab sciences, OR/ER, and Lab safety. Of course, he loved those considering Garrick would like to work in the field of forensics (hmmm future CSI crime investigator???) ?? Pictures from the oncologist, surgeons, and info from the urologist were a bit disturbing! Just kidding, but it did grab his attention! And the highlights of the entire program...Bollywood dancing by Dr Pentyala and the delectable lunches served!!! On a scale of 1-10, this program hits infinity and surpasses all our expectations when signing up! It was wonderful exposing the students early on to a myriad of medical and health professions, presented by the top notch experts themselves! Every lecturer was engaging and interesting. And the "field trips"/workshops helped put things in perspective. I am hopeful that Garrick will reach out to some of the experts to learn more about their field, health programs offered, and establish future science research projects and internships. The experts as well as Dr Pentyala 's entire team/leaders were extremely supportive and dedicated to ensure the students had an unforgettable, engaging , and fun experience! Culminating with a talent show was a nice touch! Thank you all for making SARAS 2024 happen! With gratitude,

Karen

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for the incredible experience my daughter had during the 2024 SARAS program at Stony Brook University. Celebrating the 20th anniversary of such an impactful initiative, we couldn't have asked for a better introduction to the myriad of opportunities in the medical field. The diverse array of careers and specializations presented was truly eye-opening for her. Each session was thoughtfully designed to provide deep insights, sparking a genuine interest in various medical professions. She returned home each day sharing the knowledge she had gained for the field. Beyond the academic enrichment, my daughter thoroughly enjoyed the camaraderie among her peers. The program fostered a supportive and engaging environment where she made new friends. The fun activities and the quality of the meals provided added to the overall enjoyment, making each day something to look forward to. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to you and the entire SARAS team for organizing such a comprehensive and enjoyable program. Your dedication to nurturing the next generation of medical professionals is commendable, and we are grateful for the positive impact it has had on my daughter. Thank you once again for this unforgettable experience. Warm regards,

Kerri

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Hi, Srinivas Pentyala , my son Aadi had a great experience and learned lots of different lessons from this program. I pushed him to do this program he didn't want to do, but after he started he enjoyed everyday with new topics. He said he is glad he went for life learning experience. He made new friends and enjoyed food. I enjoyed reading your emails everyday with humor and fun . Thank you very much for running such a great program.

Javanika

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I just wanted to reach out to reflect on Catherine's participation in the SARAS program. We saw Cate actively get up and ready each day, even though she is NOT a morning person! She came home eager to share what she had learned each day. She constantly mentioned how well organized and run the program was. She has utilized this experience as a way to help focus her interests for college and beyond. We are so grateful for the opportunity to participate in this experience! Thank you!

Lauren

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Hi Dr. Pentyala,

My daughter, Samantha, is sad that the SARAS program has ended. Every day she came home with so much to talk about. I saw her going from being unsure and nervous about what she wanted to study in college to now excited and more confident in her future. There were so many different areas she got to learn about. This is exactly what she needed. I also love that she was exposed to so many different people. From the professionals, to the students, to her peers....she has made contacts that she would not have had the opportunity to otherwise. Thank you for everything,

Lisa

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Dear Sринi,

When my son Andreas and I read up on the SARAS program, he was very interested and wanted to submit his application right away. We both thought it would be informative and educational, but never dreamed how much MORE he would get from the program. He loved the presenters. He said you were very funny and a wealth of knowledge. I think these qualities are important in a leader! He took notes every day about what they were presenting. Some of his favorites included orthopedics, ophthalmology, and he truly enjoyed the simulation with the ER doctors. In addition to the knowledge (and jokes) he gained so much more. First of all, he had the opportunity to live with his Auntie and Uncle in Port Jefferson. (We live in Manhattan and it would have been a very long commute every day) It was wonderful for both, since they are empty nesters and his little sister experienced being an only child for 3 weeks! He made great friends. He met several boys from Long Island and one from Minnesota and they spent time together outside the program going to movies and walking around NYC. He was "schooled" on the proper way to eat Indian food as well! Oh- and he loved the food at the program. We were sure to thank the sponsors. My son has never shown any interest in medicine at all. After this program, he is now considering it and interested in learning more about medicine. Thank you for all of your hard work, time and planning in creating such a wonderful program. It was well put together with some hands-on experience that was priceless. My son also appreciated the SAT prep sessions as well. He feels very motivated to prepare for his SAT's. I hope that my daughter will have the opportunity to attend when she is in High School. Best,

Lisa and Manolis

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First of all, thank you for giving my daughter the opportunity to participate in SARAS. It has been very informative for her, and we are thrilled that she is learning about what happens in the medical field and how to handle different situations, which aligns with her career aspirations. Every day, we ask her about her experiences, and she eagerly shares what she learned. It's wonderful to see her understanding some of the health conditions we've seen in our family and friends, and why they occur. This program is truly beneficial for high school students to help them make informed decisions about their study paths. We now have a clearer idea of the best path for our daughter. Once again, thank you for this opportunity. We truly appreciate it. Thanks & Regards

Manohar

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Hello Dr. Srinivas,

Aaron had such a great experience at the SARAS program. This experience has changed his overall opinion of Medicine as a whole. There was not a day that went by without hearing about his day and the new things he learnt! Aaron had mixed ideas of what kind of career he wanted to peruse after High School, but now he has all intentions of perusing Medicine. If it was not for the experience of the SARAS program, he'd most likely still be unsure. Thank you so much for not only inspiring him, and also educating him on this gratifying career. It's truly changed his life and ours as we see our son so excited to finish High School and pursue a career in Medicine. Thank you so much again.

Maria

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Good morning Dr. Pentyala. This is Marni, Kloe's mom. Kloe has talked about you everyday so highly and it was such a pleasure to finally meet you. Thank you so much for planning such a wonderful program. It was such a great experience for Kloe to learn about the many different opportunities there are in healthcare. This was especially meaningful for her because she hears a lot about the Peds ER from Carl and always found that to be very interesting but this program enabled her to broaden her understanding of the many different pathways she could pursue one day, Kloe is a top student and was selected for the double accelerated science program in our high school. It combines 2 years of science classes into 1 year. It's very rigorous and she has maintained an A+ and scored 5 on her AP's. She knows that she would like to do something in the science field in her future but is not sure what that will be. Thanks to you and SARAS, she has learned more about what the future may hold for her. I know that her first email early on was to Organ Regeneration Specialist. She was very interested in his lecture and wanted to share that with him and follow up with a question that she had. She shared with me everyday about the lectures and workshops. I think her favorite workshop was the simulation. She was very proud of how she handled the patient that was in anaphylactic shock. She thought that everyone on your team was terrific. She also enjoyed meeting your daughter and was happy that she had the opportunity to talk with her again on Friday. She sent other emails throughout the program but I was so impressed to hear that she wrote to the SBUMC Vice president on her own early last week, because she wanted to make sure that he knew how much she enjoyed his lecture and the SARAS program, but most of all to let him know how much she learned from you. You have left such an impression on our daughter and she was so lucky to attend the program. She was even talking about how she'd love to volunteer to help you with SARAS or anything else if an opportunity came up one day. Thank you so much for the being the wonderful person that you are. It was such an honor for Kloe to meet you. Thank you for finding my glasses too! Take care.

Marni

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Dear Mr Pentyala,

I am the father of Zayan who attended the 2024 SARAS program at Stony Brook. First of all, I would like to thank you for organizing such a wonderful event and keeping us updated throughout the program. It really made us feel as if we were part of the program. Kudos to you for taking the time out of your day to keep us informed. In terms of feedback I received from my son, here are some highlights: \* My son got the opportunity to learn about many different fields of medicine. Before attending this program, he only knew about a handful of medical specialties, now he understands that opportunities are endless when it comes to medicine. \* His favorite was the talk given by orthopedic Surgeon about the ML/AI demonstration, specifically about how you can use computers to read people's handwriting. \* My son appreciated how passionate some of the professors were about doing groundbreaking research. Overall, my son really enjoyed the program, he thought it was well structured and kept him engaged throughout the day. Thanks, and best regards,

Mashroof

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Hi Dr. Pentyala. My name is Maurice and I am Ava's father. First of all, I want to say THANK YOU for the fantastic job you and your team have done. Your passion for Stony Brook and the children came across in every e-mail leading up to the program and every update you have sent since then. I also felt very safe leaving my oldest daughter in your hands. This was evident when there was a train cancellation and not only did you let everyone know what was happening but even stayed with the kids

until they were safely in the train. You approached everything with transparency, candidness, and humor. So thank you!! To be perfectly honest, Ava had some reservation about the SARAS program only because she tends to be a hands on kid that was hoping to land in a research program. It was evident from the first week that she was really enjoying the program. She loved hearing from real professionals and the more detailed they got, the more she enjoyed it. We had a vacation scheduled during 3 days of the program and she was truly upset about missing that time and the presenters. One particular day, she got into the car and said "I can't wait to be a doctor". She's wanted to be a doctor since she was 8 years old. We have doctors in the family and we know becoming a doctor is a challenge, and many people will not realize that dream. There is no question in our minds that Ava CAN be a doctor, it's only a matter if she wants to be a doctor when things get hard. So we were thrilled that the program only heightened her enthusiasm. She even expanded her area of interest to Ophthalmology. We have zero regrets with enrolling Ava in the program. In conclusion, this was a great experience and we can't thank you enough for everything you do. I hope we can stay in touch and lean on you as a resource and sounding board going forward as we navigate this very complex process of getting our child through medical school....).

Maurice and Jeannine

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

This is Isabel's mother. I wanted to share my feedback on the recent program. I was truly impressed by its dynamism and variety of activities. The different daily subjects, engaging environments, and enjoyable lunches kept my daughter excited and involved. Even when she wasn't particularly interested in one topic, the next day's completely different focus and setting and great lunch options ensured her continued engagement and enthusiasm. The humor infused throughout the program was a wonderful touch and made the experience even more enjoyable. Thank you for organizing such a memorable and well-rounded program! Best regards

Mayra

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Dear Dr. Lejuez, Dr. Wertheim, Ms. Gomes, Dr. Igarashi, and Dr. Pentyala,

I am writing to share my sincere gratitude for the incredible SARAS program that my son, Adam had the privilege of attending over the past three weeks. Each day of the SARAS program, Adam was filled with excitement and enthusiasm about everything he had learned from the distinguished doctors and speakers involved in the program. The depth of knowledge he gained is truly incredible, and it has significantly fueled his interest in the medical field. Dr. Pentyala's coordination of the SARAS program was amazing. His dedication and enthusiasm were evident throughout, creating an environment that was engaging, educational, and inspiring. The seamless organization and execution of the program are a testament to the hard work and commitment of everyone involved. Dr. Pentyala's emails were so enjoyable to read and I truly looked forward to receiving them each day! I must admit, I am sad for it to end. I would also like to commend the thoughtful arrangement of the daily catered lunches, which added an extra layer of enjoyment to Adam's experience. The entire program was very well organized. Thank you all for your dedication and hard work in making this program a success. It has made a lasting impact on Adam, and I am confident it will benefit many more students in the future.

Michelle

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Dear Srinivas,

We are the parents of Kaitlyn. Handing in our homework. Haha. We are extremely glad that Kaitlyn was able to join the SARAS program. It is such an amazing opportunity for her to explore all the specialties in the medical field. She learned a lot of new things such as lumbar puncture, anesthesia, CPR, Physical Therapy, and much more. We could not wait to hear what she learned at the program during dinner every day. Of course she could not leave the lunch part out and she always got her seconds. This program helped her to find a better idea of which medical field she is deciding to pursue in college. She feels very proud to be a part of the SARAS family. We are very impressed of the program and organization efforts. You are very passionate and caring. Really appreciate all the efforts and dedications you put into this program. Please don't retire from this program. Can't thank you and the staff enough for having such an incredible program.

Michelle

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Hi, I am mother of Diya. I feel good that I decided to send my daughter in this program because it looks like she learned a lot from this program, she always talks when she comes home that what she learned there and also she enjoyed the food every day and I am sure this program will help her in college to decide her career too.

Nileshvari

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

It was a pleasure seeing you on Friday. Hope you are now all caught up with your sleep. Your style and energy is truly infectious. We cannot thank you enough for your wonderful summer program offering, exposing and inspiring all students to the world of medicine. My daughter Aanya was surely inspired and made clear in her thoughts for the choice of program she wants to pursue, will makes us proud by joining all the doctors in our family. Will surely miss your emails. - Niraj

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

I wanted to start by saying thank you for putting this program together. Every day, for the past three weeks, we would wait for Sofia at the train station, waiting to hear about her day. She would come ready to tell us about her day at SARAS, her favorite speaker, the food and even your jokes. I have to say I will miss those rides because it was nice to experience this with my teenager! I can only imagine the amount of work it takes to put a program of this magnitude together. You and your team made it look flawless. Seeing the way you interacted with the kids and how involved you were, it is something that was really nice to experience. You helping carry the instruments, getting music together, carrying trophies was really nice to see. Throughout the day you thanked every member of the team, from the head of the hospital to the person in charge of the food! That was extremely nice to see and a beautiful example of how a person should act, regardless of their credentials. I am sure this did not go unnoticed by the kids. Thank you for this experience, SARAS has reinforced her desire to pursue medicine and we are very thankful for showing her all the opportunities out there for her.

Noelia and Said parent's of Sofia (ballet dancer :))

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Dear Dr. Srinivas,

My daughter, Patricia, thoroughly enjoyed this experience. Every day she would always be excited to discuss the different topics and skills she experienced that day. This program was very helpful in guiding her through the many different medical opportunities available. Thank you for all the time and effort done by you and your team to make this experience possible.

Peter

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Hello Dr. Srinivas,

My Son ( Atharva ) enjoyed the SARAS program. He did made a lot of new friends and was very happy about it .I signed him up to figure out if he has any interest in the medical field and he really like ophthalmology. I would definitely recommend the program for high school students. Thank you for all your guidance emails, I really appreciate that .

Aiswariya

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Dr Pentyala,

First I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the wonderful experience our child Isabelle had at your program. To say she was excited to wake up every morning and take a train all by herself to learn of all the new things she was learning would be a massive understatement. She was beyond happy and eager to soak in the knowledge and participate in different events and noting now even made an impact on her personality. My only regret is we wish we knew of this program a year or two ago so she would have had an opportunity to learn more. Thank you again for brightening our child's summer and making it such a memorable one Sincerely,

Prajwal

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Hello Doctor Pentyala,

Giving you the feedback for the Saras program. It was such a wonderful introduction to this vast world of medicine! And my daughter loved each and every day of it! The lectures and the practical experience was an eye opener for her and her friends. I just loved how they talked about in the car on the way back. You did an amazing job organizing this perfect event! And of course I loved that you played an Indian song at the end:)) You made it so much fun for them and It was fun reading your emails everyday! Hope Gunisha can come and participate in some other programs in the future!

Rami

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Hello Dr. Pentyala,

I hope this message finds you well. I wanted to express my gratitude for the remarkable program you've developed. From what my daughter has shared with me, she found it to be a valuable experience that opened her eyes to various career options in the medical field. Lakshya has always been steadfast in her desire to become a dentist, but this program has encouraged her to explore and consider other possibilities. It's been heartening to see her come home with new ideas and enthusiasm about her

future, and it's clear that this program has broadened her perspective significantly. She often excitedly shares the way you are approachable, always willing to provide guidance and answer questions, which greatly enhances the learning experience. I must admit, I've grown fond of hearing her stories and updates each day and how much she misses this program. I truly appreciate the hard work and dedication you've invested in this program and the provide communication to parents via emails. It has not only enriched my daughter's educational journey but has also brought a new dynamic to our conversations at home which we both truly miss. Thank you again for your efforts and commitment to the program. I am thrilled to know that Lakshya is gaining such valuable experiences at Stony Brook .

Ramya

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Dr. Pentyala,

My daughter, Aleena, had an amazing experience attending this summer program! I thank you for all the work that I have heard you put into this program to encourage high school students to think about the field of medicine. I hope you have a wonderful rest of the summer. She has been amazed by your dedication, and thinks your humor reminds her of mine. She also loved the lunch options. Best wishes moving forward. It's an inspiration to have heard about such an amazing program.

Raza

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

Thank you very much for all your hard work and dedication to the SARAS program. I was very impressed by how organized and informative the program was. My daughter Anjali came home excited daily and shared everything she learned and talked about the different people she met. She also mentioned how delicious the food was. She was so passionate about attending and learning that it made me want to attend this program. The expert views/various workshops helped her learn and also gave her a better understanding of what is available out there. Overall, I was really happy that she was able to be a part of the SARAS program and I have already recommended this program to my friends/family. Anjali loves science and the SARAS program reaffirmed her decision to further her education in the sciences. Thanks, - Rinku

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Hello Dr. Srinivas,

Thank you so much for providing three wonderful weeks of lessons bundled with fun for kids. My son Kunal definitely enjoyed his experience there and learned a lot about different medical conditions. He loved the opportunity to sit in the helicopter and chuckled at your daily jokes. I really appreciate you keeping us parents informed with your emails. Thanks to SARAS program, he has expressed interest in a healthcare career. I am not sure what path he will choose, but this program has given him a perspective on different healthcare fields. My older son had also attended this program in 2017 and loved it as well. I hope you continue this program for many more summers! If there are any other programs that have the same caliber as this one I would love to know. I really appreciate all of the helpful information you had provided in your previous emails!

Rita

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My daughter Sylar participated in the SARAS Program this summer. I have to say, I was equally excited for her to be in the program as she was. It was only months ago when Skylar spoke about her interest in Anesthesia and this program became available. We had interesting conversations every night going over her day and she would inform me of the speakers that shared their knowledge and experience. This program opened new horizons and offered major options in the medical field that Skylar was not aware of prior to this summer. I am truly appreciative of you with all of your information & instructions as well as all of the other administrator's knowledge throughout the 3 weeks. I am also appreciative of the generous vendors supplying lunch everyday. This was a major learning experience and I would love for Skylar to participate again. Thank you very much for your interest, time & patience throughout this program.

Robin

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Hi Dr. Pentyala,

I cannot say enough positive things about the SARAS program. Sarah has gotten in the car each afternoon and immediately opened her notebook to review what she learned during the day (without prompting) only to be followed up with a plethora of "I wonder" or "what if " questions. While neither my husband nor I are in medicine, luckily we have plenty of relatives who are. She has reached out to so many of them to get more in depth knowledge around her questions that they will probably be screening our calls for a while! Even more than piquing Sarah's curiosity, we are grateful for the interest the program has awoken within Sarah in different areas of science and medicine. Since she was in primary school Sarah has insisted that she was going to become a neurologist, despite our pleas to keep her mind open. Now, she says she wants to learn more about physical therapy, urology, and psychiatry as well! Also, my husband and I really appreciated you keeping the program so fun for the kids, even introducing some Bollywood into the mix. Have a wonderful rest of the summer, and I hope you change your mind regarding passing the torch next year (if what Sarah says is true) because these three weeks have just been amazing for her! Regards,

Robyn

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

Thank you for organizing the wonderful SARAS 2024 program! My daughter Myrah enjoyed the diversity of the health care topics covered. The line up of speakers was impressive. We, as parents, felt that Myrah got a good introduction to the modern health care system. She particularly enjoyed the simulation laboratory. We are glad she got an opportunity to participate in this year's program.

Dimple & Sanjay

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Hello Dr Srinivas ,

Hope this mail finds you well. I wanted to extend my heartfelt congratulations on the tremendous success of SARAS . Your dedication , hard work and your intelligent, witty ,and quirky talks has definitely made impact on the students. Sanvi definitely is going to miss the sumptuous food, I will have to game up my cooking skills to stir up her appetite. Thank you for your relentless pursuit of excellence and for setting such a high standard in the field of science and research. I look forward to seeing even more



groundbreaking advancements in the future. I hope the kids are inspired and would excel in the field of science and research ( at least some of them, hope) . Last but not the least, will definitely miss your lengthy, witty emails. Warmest regards,

Saritha

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Hello Dr. Pentyala,

My daughter, Sanjana was a part of this year's SARAS program that you organized. We were there for the talent show by the students too and we thoroughly enjoyed that too. I wanted to write to thank you for all the effort that you/ your team took to organize this program successfully, this year and for so many years past. The students have gained so much from this great program. I can definitely talk about Sanjana having such a positive learning experience from this program. This gives students who are interested in the sciences/ medical field a great platform and window to view different sub-fields and gain perspectives from relevant experts in each field. As someone who has been interested in science for a long time and the medical field in particular, this program was the perfect one for

Satish and Vidya

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Hello Dr. Pentyala,

We enjoyed the SARAS program very much and looked forward to each day. Thank you for being so organized and always informing us of the daily activities and recap. I was particularly excited to hear the day's summary and feedback from Anjali each day. Anjali also got a lot out of the program and actually looked forward to getting up each morning. The college admission session is very informative. It was very inspirational hearing the alumni as well. Not only did it validate why Stony Brook is our number one choice but now I would like to work at Stonybrook ???. Too bad I really love where I'm currently at. Thank you for all of your assistance with getting into SARAS and answering all of our questions. Our goal is to ensure that we do everything we can to be considered for admission at Stony Brook and would not like to miss any step in the process. There is so much that we love about Stony Brook, just to name a few- cost, location, campus setting, research, hospital, etc. Thank you again for all that you've done so far and we look forward to your partnership in this process.

-Shantie

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Hello Dr. Pentyala,

Thank you for coordinating the SARAS program. Isabel enjoyed sharing her day with me throughout the program and I enjoyed hearing all about her interests and the stories the speakers would share. Also, thank you for adding your humor along with your personal experiences!

Sheryl

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Hello Dr. Pentyala,

This is Sia's mom. I just wanted to share my feedback on the SARAS program with you. First of all, the format and duration of the program was very good. A nice balance of lectures and hands-on activities.

It gave Sia more insight into the fields she would be more interested in and some new areas of the medical field. As parents, we looked forward to the detailed emails at the end of each day. It was good to know what the day looked like. We truly appreciated the information on additional topics, especially details on SAT exams and College admissions. Overall it was a wonderful experience for Sia, she loved interacting with various experts and also made new friends during the program. Thanks,

Shilpa

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

This is an impressive opportunity for a student like Emily, who is interested in health/medicine related areas, to immerse in all varieties of fields from professionals in these areas. The seminars plus the workshops have the perfect combination: to listen and absorb knowledge in the morning and to act and practice on hands-on projects in the afternoon. Overall it's an eye-opening and highly rewarding experience for Emily. (She sat in the front most of the time and took as many notes as she could, at least 2-3 pages per lecture!) We also love the daily emails from you. Not only did you inform us/the parents of the recap of the activities every day, but also provided detailed instructions/reminders to the students. We loved the sense of honor in the emails and always had a big smile on our face after reading the emails. We understand how hard it is sometimes to communicate with teenagers. We appreciate all the effort you put into this program and all the emails. In fact, during the last three weeks, we looked forward to your emails everyday :) Thank you very much again to you Dr. Pentyala and the program leadership team. Thank you for the opportunities and inspirations you brought to students like Emily. Best Regards, - Shiyang

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SARAS is a wonderful program. My daughter learned a lot and had some fun too! she met lots of nice students and enjoyed the program. I heard that lunch was fabulous every day so thank you for a fun filled summer of learning. We appreciate everyone who was involved in running this program for the students. - Carmela

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Dr. Srinivas Pentyala,

I want to first start off by saying that I appreciate your help with getting Ethan into the program and responding to my emails promptly as I know it was a last-minute application. Ethan was extremely excited to start the program and embark on his premedical journey. Not sure if it was the program or the fact that he would be by his grandparents for the duration of the program, but let's go with he was excited for the program. He said you were a very funny, jovial man, that reminded him of his grandpa. BTW...his grandpa is his favorite human ever. I truly enjoyed your daily emails, hearing all the day to day activities, and topics discussed by Ethan, as well as the daily lunch options. He never came home with "it was a boring lesson", but rather "it was cool to see that, I had no idea". He enjoyed the "campus/college life" and getting a taste of it. I would definitely recommend this program to anyone. Ethan is gearing up to be at Stonybrook next year as he embarks on his college journey. Maybe your paths will cross along with some of the others he may have met in the time in the program.

Swabarene

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Hello Dr. Pentyala,

Thank you so much for conducting such a great program. Our daughter, Liana, loved this program and it helped her gain knowledge on the different areas of STEM. Every day she would tell us all about the experts and what they talked about that day. This camp helped her see her options and discover new interests. We will always appreciate your hard work in running SARAS. Thank you so much!

Ting and Tan

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Dear Dr. Srin,

Thank you for inviting us to attend the final day of SARAS. We were so grateful for all the support that your department and the University administration provided to students in fostering their educational progress. The world-class facility, intellectual environment, and interactive atmosphere were as overwhelming as we witnessed today. Lastly, your energy, sense of humor, and, most importantly, your passion to teaching and mentoring have made this program a success. Please continue for many more years to come. Our son will be delighted to return as an alumni and share his professional expertise with future SARASers, particularly you. Thank you very much.

Tony & Moddi

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Hi, Dr Pentyala. I'm Qina and I'm Natalie's mom. Just want to thank you for everything you have done for the 3 weeks SARAS program, she's not only learned a lot about many areas of the medical field, also made some good friends and still in contact with. She still misses those 3 weeks and she said that was the best part of her summer break! She would do it again if she had a chance. Thank you again for your dedication and you are really passionate about your career and your students! We love to see educators like you and wish you the best!

Qina

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Hello,

Thank you for running the SARAS 2024 program this year. It was extremely beneficial to Aishani since she explored possible career options and types of research. The SAT and PSAT tips will definitely help her in her endeavors in the future.

Uma & Sridhar

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Dear Srinivas,

My daughter Hanzhi enjoyed the camp very much. She has learned a lot and changed a lot. She is interested in becoming a surgeon. After the camp her determination is stronger. I am very appreciative of your help with her. She likes you all very much. Next year she wants to come again. Also, she wants to attend your university too. I am very glad she likes your program. Thank you.

David

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

This is Chloe's father. I really appreciate that Chloe had the opportunity to join the SARAS program. Thank you for all the effort you and your staff put into hosting and directing the program. The program has helped open Chloe's mind about her future and who she would like to be. It was an exciting new experience for her since it was her first time to gain such detailed knowledge in so many fields. Chloe has often mentioned her various experiences at SARAS, and I can feel the passion and effort that you have dedicated to hosting this program. She definitely wants to continue exploring science after this wonderful experience. Thank you so much. Best,

Xiaojun

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Dear Dr. Srinivas Pentyala,

My daughter, Letong, participated in the SARAS program that you and your colleagues organized, and we are incredibly grateful for this opportunity. She was fortunate to be part of this program because each SARAS student could explore different subjects and skills in the medical field over just three weeks. I appreciate the hard work you and your colleagues put into preparing for this SARAS program. You managed to organize classes with esteemed professors and doctors for over 100 students, ensuring a comprehensive learning experience. Providing a nutritious lunch every day was also very considerate and greatly appreciated. Additionally, your daily informative emails were instructive in keeping us updated on the program's progress. Your efforts have profoundly impacted the younger generation, providing them with education and guidance toward a bright future. We feel very fortunate to have been a part of the SARAS program. Thank you once again for everything you have done.

Xiumei

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Dr. Pentyala,

I am the father of Tsz, and I wanted to extend my gratitude for the wonderful experience provided by the SARAS program this year. My child had an incredible time and particularly enjoyed the helicopter pad, and trauma wound packing activities. These hands-on experiences were truly invaluable and sparked a great deal of interest and enthusiasm. Overall, we are very pleased with the program and the diverse opportunities it offered to the students. Thank you again for all your efforts and dedication in making SARAS 2024 a success.

Gary

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Hi Dr. Pentyala,

My daughter, Anne, just completed the SARAS program and really enjoyed it. We discussed the presentations every evening. It was a great opportunity for her to learn about the healthcare field. Thank you for putting together a great program!

-Erin

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Dr. Srinivas Pentyala,

It is an amazing program! Every day when we went to pick him up, my son was always so excited to tell us all the wonderful experiences in SARAS. As I expected, He got so much knowledge about the fields that he wasn't sure if he would be interested in pursuing it in college or not. The speakers were dedicated to their fields and it always came out in their presentations. All the lectures and hand on workshop jobs are wonderful as my son said! Thank you for all your wonderful work!

Zhong

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

I wanted to extend my heartfelt thanks to you and the entire team at SARAS for the incredible summer program. My daughter, Nana, had an amazing experience and gained so much valuable knowledge about medicine during her time there. It was clear that the program was very well-organized; even when there were issues with the train, you handled the situation with the students excellently, and we truly appreciate the dedication and care that everyone put into making it such a positive experience. The knowledge and inspiration she received has made a lasting impact. Thank you again for all your hard work and for providing such a valuable learning opportunity. We look forward to staying in touch and following the program's continued success. Warm regards,

Mayuko

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

I would like to thank you sincerely for this most wonderful program that I have ever known ?? Teenagers generally refuses the activities parents arrange for them. However, I was so excited to see that my son was willing to go continuously. Right from the opening day, he wrote lots of notes. From all the emails that you have sent out every day and the last day's activities I attended, I am very sure that it is the wonderful program and your personal appeal that make this experience memorable to him and us as parents. I think I will definitely ask him and his sister to attend SARAS next year!

Ying

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