

2025-SARAS: Parents Feedback

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

First of all, I would like to say congratulations on another successful year of SARAS. The organization, flow, education content of the program was second to none.

I personally had the opportunity of attending many of the sessions and found them to be extremely valuable to someone who would like to pursue a career in healthcare.

Our family also would like to thank you for letting our son Arnav participate and be part of the fantastic program. Even though, we were late in applying, we will always be thankful for your flexibility. Our son has been so impressed with the program that he would love to help out in any projects that you might have in the future, and maybe volunteer as a helper sometime in the future. Our very best for the continued success of the program. Many thanks, Lovedhi

Dr. Pentyala,

Thanks so much to you, the speakers, and your team for preparing the last 3 weeks for my daughter Candace. Before this program, she knew she wanted to pursue healthcare but was unsure of what her options were. Now, she's knowledgeable in all the choices she has and has a clear goal in the medical field. Reading your funny emails before the program made everything less stressful for both me and Candace, and during the program it allowed me to get a glimpse into the classroom everyday. Thank you for all the time, energy, and passion you put into SARAS every year! Alice

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

I am grateful for the SARAS program. My daughter, Madeleine, didn't know what to expect. There were many eye opening experiences for her, where she felt all assortment of emotions. She laughed at the lecture you gave, felt empathy for patients with mental health issues, disgusted by internal organs, and appreciated the sacrifices veterans made. She also learned about all the different disciplines in healthcare, aside from what most people knew. I also appreciated how you kept all the parents informed because you knew how kids might not be as responsible as we would like. Thank you for the comprehensive program, and I hope this program never goes away. Best regards, Fung

Dear Dr. Srini: Our family is deeply grateful to Stony Brook Medicine for organizing the SARAS program. This experience has been incredibly meaningful for our daughter, Jasmine, who aspires to a future in healthcare. Through its comprehensive lecture and workshops on medical topics, SARAS opened up a world of possibilities for her. Each day after pickup, I was thrilled to hear her speak with such excitement about what she had learned. This program truly ignited her passion for scientific discovery and gave her invaluable insight into pursuing medical studies in the future. Thank you for running SARAS so thoughtfully and effectively. I especially appreciated the daily emails—they were a pleasure to read and offered a wonderful glimpse into the enriching experiences the students were having. We are sincerely thankful that Jasmine had the opportunity to be part of such an inspiring program. Sincerely, Fang

Thank you Dr. Srinivas for hosting this program with such passion. I could see the excitement when my child came home and told us about the eventful days. You truly turned educational learning into so much fun and created a community between all of the kids. This program was worth the money and I would recommend it to others. Thank you! Anubha

Hello Dr Pentyala

I applied to the SARAS Program without knowing whether my high school senior would be accepted, but we decided to take the chance and submit the application anyway. I was thrilled to hear back from Dr. Pentyala, even though he was initially unsure whether we could attend from New Jersey. I assured him that, if accepted into the program, we would make our own accommodation arrangements to ensure participation.

There is no doubt that this program sparked a strong interest in my son and has deeply motivated him to pursue a career in healthcare. He is now more determined than ever to work toward becoming a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine and is excited to continue his studies in this field. SARAS 2025 is an excellent program offered by Stony Brook University. It provides high school students with invaluable knowledge and exposure to careers in health sciences, public health, medicine, physician assistant studies, and related fields. This program serves as an outstanding opportunity for students who are passionate about pursuing a future in healthcare. Each day, the students learned something new, and the hands-on experience provided through various workshops gave them a wealth of knowledge and practical insight. The program was incredibly well-organized, striking a perfect balance between informative lectures and engaging hands-on workshops. Each day, the students were introduced to new topics and practical experiences that significantly enriched their understanding. The workshops provided invaluable exposure and real-world insight. Kudos to Dr. Pentyala and his team for not only organizing an enriching academic experience but also for thoughtfully providing a variety of delicious cuisines for the students each day. The students genuinely looked forward to the daily menu, which added an extra layer of excitement to the program. Dr. Pentyala and his team not only imparted immense knowledge to this next generation but also served as inspiring role models. Thank you Dr. Pentyala for giving Sujay an opportunity to attend this wonderful program.

Aruna

Dear Dr.Pentyala,

My son, Daniel recently went to the 2025 Stonybrook SARAS. I believe this experience must have been a very good experience for him! He told me he learned many things about the healthcare and the science. This program was very good for him and he has learning many things as I looked in his notebook. The photos are also very good, I see many important techniques like CPR has been taught to the people there! Thanks you very much for this wonderful opportunity and the hard work that has been putting in to the SARAS program!

Thank you,

Bella

Hi!

Thank you for a fun and exciting program. My daughter Maddie learned so much and each day, she came home to tell me all about what she learned. For example, she nearly killed her dummy by attempting to place a needle into the “rubber spine” (poor needle). From your sense of humor to the workshops, it was a great experience for her. She also managed to stay awake at all times. I will miss your emails as well- they always cracked me up. For me, that was the best part of SARAS as a parent reading your emails. I thought the program was ran well, organized, and had lots of important information for young students that want to gain more insight into a career in medicine. Maddie has been talking a lot about your research as well.

In addition, I have 3 more kids for you in the near future.

I hope to drive out to Stonybrook every day from Melville again (*not*) (*just kidding*) ☺

Thank you for this special opportunity and program - my husband said he wishes this was around back in the day when he was a pre-med student. I Hope you enjoy rest of your summer! Thanks again,

Bonnie

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

I want to express my gratitude for allowing Felicity to participate in SARAS 2025. This incredible program had been an eye-opening experience for Felicity, and it provided her with a deeper understanding of many different

medical fields. The best part she liked the most was the ER simulation, which allowed her to have a first-hand experience of what emergency medicine is like in a real-life situation. Due to this experience, she planned to obtain EMT certification in the near future. SARAS 2025 had deepened and strengthened her interest in the medical field. I'm grateful for the knowledge and experiences that Felicity has gained from this program and look forward to seeing where her passion for healthcare takes her. I would definitely recommend the program for all high school students. Once again, thank you for your time, hard work, engagement, and passion for inspiring young minds.

Best Regards,

Carmen

Dear Dr Pentyala,

This is Mia's mom. According to Mia, SARAS is a great summer program, which she has been learning a lot and had a great experience. Everyday when she came home, she can't wait to share her stories with me.

The doctors' presentation, hands on experience, lab certificate, SAT prep, great food, nice undergrad volunteers, talent shows and the rewards for the participation...too much to mention.

Of course she also mentioned you are a funny and nice person, running program very well.

Thanks for the great experience and good job for your work!

Thanks,

Cheryl

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

My name is Ching, parent of Elizabeth - 2025-SARAS. Elizabeth had a great time at the program. The program opened up her vision in the medical field. She learned a lot more just being a doctor and many other medical professionals. From the 3 weeks program she made many friends, being independent and learning what she wants in her near future. I would highly recommend this program to my friends and family. I just wanted to Thank you and your staff for guiding the kids. Thank you again.

Ching

Hello Dr.Srinivas,

Hannah had lots of fun attending the SARAS program. Each day, she was always looking forward to the next session of the SARAS program to learn and explore new things. The experience has provided her with a broader perspective on her college choices and future career path. Throughout the program, you and your team have made a profound impact on her. She gained a deeper understanding on the aspects of everything science has to offer. At home, she often shares and appreciates your engaging, humorous and insightful approach to teaching. Her passion for pursuing STEM has been strengthened thanks to the learning experience you and your team has been able to provide. We sincerely thank you and your wonderful team for offering such a memorable and enriching program. It has truly been an invaluable experience for her and we are deeply grateful for this wonderful and transformative experience.

Rani.

Hello,

I wanted to let you know how wonderful I think your program is. You truly made learning a unique and fun experience for them!!! Your positivity was a great example for the students. I'm so happy my daughter was a part of your program.

Sincerely,

Christina

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

A HUGE thank you to Stony Brook University, the guest speakers, staff and most importantly Dr. Pentyala for your dedication and passion in helping students explore different careers in health sciences through SARAS. The hands-on workshops students participated in are relevant life skills that can benefit them beyond the program. Junto comes back home everyday excited to share what he has learnt for the day and even tried to give us a lecture on financial literacy and lab safety. Every afternoon, after 4pm, it is a highlight to receive an email from Dr. Pentyala with a briefing of what the students engaged in for the day. I can't help but wonder how Dr. Pentyala has so much energy to still provide such a detailed summary of the day for parents and students. This certainly exemplifies the ethos of the program and the care from leadership. We are beyond satisfied with the decision to enroll Junto into the program and would be more than happy to recommend SARAS to any students who are thinking of pursuing a career in the healthcare field. SARAS makes learning in the summer fun for students!! Sincerely, Cindi

Hello, this is Ava's mom. I just wanted to thank you firstly for all that you did for these kids. I very much looked forward to reading your emails daily to learn about their day and also have a few laughs! As far as Ava, she really enjoyed the whole experience and was excited to share all she learned with me on our car ride home from the station.

So, all I can say is great job from all and thank you again!

Dawnmarie

My daughter, Sahana, thoroughly enjoyed the program and gained in-depth knowledge about all the departments. Dinner time conversations about her daily experiences were fascinating and truly impactful. Thank you for all that you do to support and empower kids like Sahana! Thank you for the opportunity!

How can I miss not talking about your long emails and fun/color coded sentences filled with emotions!

Overall you made the program fun for the kids!

Thanks

Deepa

Hello Dr.Srini!

This is Parent of Diya. I am thinking how to start, this 3 weeks of Summer was the most productive days Diya has ever had. Its such a blessing we got to know about SARAS, I was amazed how everything was so meticulously planned. Starting from building such an impressive schedule, to transport, to delicious food all so seamless. This is the first time Diya has travelled out of home alone and we felt super secure the way it was organized since Day 1. Everyday I pick her back from Station, she had non stop stories to share with so much enthusiasm. Bone cancer 13 year old girl - how she got the angle twisted and replaced for knee, those Agar plates, lab activities and the list goes on. Nevertheless to say the schedule was so meticulously put together, had a mix of all its a privilege to hear lectures from these eminent doctors. She not only developed friendships with like minded kids, she got to give the final dance performance with, also had a chance to interact with faculty and had discussions and ideas sharing over email. Thanks for triggering her inner passion to achieve something in Medical field. SARAS also kindled her realization to look up to Stony Brook as her first choice for College. I really enjoy reading your emails to the end of every day, used to wonder how you could dedicate so much time in putting these together, these kids and us, are a fan of yours. If you compete in election you would definitely win, not buttering, but just felt like saying. Your dedication for these kids and the society will never go unnoticed.

Heartfelt gratitude to you and the entire SARS team. Humble request, to keep Diya at the back of your mind in case of any suggestions/guidance, research opportunities or anything that comes to your mind. We will have a huge smile each time to see your name in our inbox.

Thank you Dr.

- Shyla

As a parent, I just want to say thank you for creating such a meaningful program. My child came home every day excited to talk about what they learned, and it was clear that SARAS made a big impact on her. We really appreciated how the program exposed them to so many different topics and careers in medicine. It was clear a lot of thought and effort went into making it all happen, and we're really grateful for that. We loved your emails and are definitely going to miss them!! Overall the program was very smoothly run and it was organized. Thank you again for everything! Best regards

Ruby

Hi Dr. Pentyala,

I'm extremely thankful for this excellent program. Every night my daughter came home excitedly telling me all the fun moments that had occurred, all the new people she's met, and all the food that she ate. It makes me happy to see her happy. She also tells me about how she's even more driven and motivated into the path she wants to go down to after a speaker at the program presented the specialty she had her eyes on. I personally feel that this program had provided valuable insights that wouldn't be easily accessible. Overall, I'm grateful for this program because she has gained so many benefits in perspective, knowledge, and experience.

Sandra

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

I can't believe the SARAS program is already over! Over the past three weeks we heard from our rising high school junior about all the talks from different specialists - GI specialists, oncologists, orthopedics, ophthalmologist to name a few. She enjoyed workshops exploring ER clinical skills, lumbar puncture and Manikin Simulation. The biomedical literature workshop was very helpful. She was astonished with her agar dish experiment results and sees germs very differently now. Hearing from an organ regeneration specialist and pediatric orthopedic oncologist has piqued her interest. A big thank you to Dr. Pentyala for your labor of love in organizing this program at Stony Brook for high school students - it was a great opportunity for her to explore the fields of healthcare.

Florence

Hello Dr Pentyala,

Thank you so much for hosting such an incredible and thoughtfully planned workshops for the SARAS students. Ausiya has learned so much. She seems to have a much clearer understanding of what she wishes to pursue in the future, and for that this experience was priceless. This program has helped her learn what she can and cannot stomach in medicine lol! Thank you again for your efforts. Friba

Dear Dr Pentyala : We would like to thank you for allowing our son Lorenzo to participate in SARAS 2025. It truly is an amazing program and clearly a labour of love. You have created a camp that showcases the many careers in health care and it was a great introduction to students who will be our future health care professionals. My son would come back with stories of what he learned on that particular day and it was nice to see his interest in health care starting to form. Thanks again. Lorenzo and Gina

Hello Dr. Srinivas: I hope this email finds you well. Over the course of the three weeks that SARAS took place, my daughter has been extremely enthusiastic about the lectures being taught. I remember this one time she came home very excited about a workshop that was done with mannequins that had their own heartbeats and pulses. SARAS is an amazing program and has taught her so much and I hope you can continue to educate other knowledge thirsty high schoolers. Thank you,

Hong

Dear Dr. Pentyala and SARAS Program team,

I wanted to extend my sincere thanks for the wonderful experience my daughter, Evelyn, had during the SBU SARAS summer program. The exposure to a wide range of health science topics, hands-on activities, and inspiring guest speakers truly sparked her interest in pursuing a future in the medical field. She came home each day eager to share what she had learned, and I was impressed by the depth and variety of the curriculum. The program was well-organized, intellectually stimulating, and supportive. A perfect environment for motivated high school students. Thank you again for offering such a meaningful opportunity for young minds to explore science and medicine. Best,

Anna

Dear Mr. Pentyala

Ojas is one of few kids who attended this program from NJ. We stayed with our friends in Syosset. Every day when I pick up Ojas in the afternoon, he was nonstop talking about what he learnt that day. I have never seen Ojas this excited and pumped up ever that too every single day. He came to this program with no or less expectation. On the very first day his impression changed and he was locked in. His admiration for you and the work have done in R&D field is something he couldn't stop talking about. You have become a big inspiration and hope for him. Big Thanks to you for everything.

His knowledge on Medical science has expanded so much thru this program. He now has a good and well rounded understanding of what to expect in various aspects of the medical field. I am positive that this program has given the building blocks to Identify his interest and passion.

I, personally would be missing the conversations Ojas had during our drive back from Stony brook to Syosset. Thank you for organizing a wonderful programs for all kids. Whenever you visit New Jersey, please stop by at our place. We would love to have you at our place. Good luck. Regards.

Jagan

This is Jean, Vincent's mom. Thank you so much for such a wonderful program. Vincent went into this without really knowing what he wanted to do, and even though he's still not completely sure, he knows he definitely wants to pursue medicine. All the speakers who came in were so wonderful and informative and it was so great hearing about all the different aspects of healthcare through Vincent. Thank you so much once again. Jean

Dear Dr. Pentyala-

Just to provide my feedback as a parent. Overall, the program was exceptionally well-organized. I can't even imagine how many hours went into preparing it! The schedule was provided in advance, and each day we received follow-up emails summarizing the presentations and hands-on activities. This made it easy to track what was covered each day. My daughter (Genevieve) came home excited and eager to share something new she had learned, often even sending me short messages during the day saying, "Hey, I learned this...Did you know that..." She was genuinely enthusiastic about returning every day. The tips you provided were also incredibly helpful. I would rank this program among the very best my daughter has attended, and I would highly recommend it to any student interested in the medical field. Again, I want to sincerely thank you for the opportunity to attend the program. The fact that it was open to everyone regardless of grades or social status speaks volumes about your genuine desire to make knowledge accessible to anyone who is interested. That inclusivity is truly admirable. Best regards,

Jennia

Dear SARAS Team, Hello, I'm Grace's mom. I just wanted to take a moment to share our heartfelt thanks for the amazing experience Grace had through your program. From the first day, she came home absolutely energized and full of stories—each one more inspiring than the last. She was already excited before SARAS

began, but after participating, her passion for pursuing a career in nursing has grown even stronger. Meeting the veterans made a deep impression on her—she even mentioned wanting to volunteer there regularly. And after witnessing the hip surgery demonstration, she was both fascinated and admittedly a bit grossed out (in the best educational way possible!). Despite that, she couldn't stop talking about what she learned. Every single day, she came home eager and joyful, and as her mom, it was beautiful to witness. I've already told several other parents how outstanding SARAS is for high school students interested in medicine. The program is not only affordable, but incredibly rich in content and experience. I also appreciated the clear communication before the program began and the helpful daily briefings from the coordinator Dr.Pentyala. They made everything feel organized and welcoming, informative and even funny sometimes. 😊 Oh—and one more thing! Grace was especially impressed by Dr.Pentyala's brilliance. She even shared her dream of someday working with him. ☺ As a parent, I'm 200% satisfied. I genuinely hope SARAS continues to flourish and remain a meaningful stepping stone for future generations here in Long Island. Thank you again for everything you do. Warmest regards, Grace's proud mom ☺

Dear SARAS Team,

I wanted to extend my sincere thanks for the incredible experience my child, Eric Gabrielsen, had during the SARAS program. It was truly a valuable opportunity, and they came home each day excited to share what they had learned. Throughout the program, they gained exposure to a wide variety of medical specialties and developed a deeper understanding of the science and research that supports modern medicine. It was both educational and inspiring, and it certainly sparked even more interest in the medical field. Thank you again for organizing such a well-rounded and engaging program. We truly appreciate the time, effort, and passion your team put into making SARAS such a memorable experience.

Warm regards,

Jenny

Hi, Dr. Pentyala,

I wasn't sure if my email at the middle point of the program counted towards the feedback you wanted...so here I go again. I sincerely thank you for all the efforts you have put into organizing and your encouragements through the whole program. This was a wonderful opportunity for both of my daughters, Isabel & Emily, who were always interested in the health field. This experience was very unique to them hearing from different experts from different fields. This was an eye opener to the field and even gave them sense of belonging that they would be part of in the future. They came home smiling with excitement and talking about the new discovery each day. They were also very proud to be part of the Stony Brook community. They made life-long friends, they have been hanging out since the program even after it was over. Thank you so much. They will really miss the program a lot!! Best regards,

Karen

Dr. Pentyala, Thank you for organizing SARAS. Mehreen really enjoyed the opportunity to learn about healthcare and allied fields over the three weeks. Each day she came back with something new that she found exciting and engaging. She particularly appreciated the sessions about organ regeneration, robotic surgery and hands-on activities like CPR, EMS. She loved the visit to the Veteran's home. Overall, this program provided a great introduction to healthcare careers, gave her a sense of what different roles entail and "adulting" in general. And of course she loved "Uncle Srini" and the lunches! Thank you for providing this opportunity!

Kanika

Hello Dr. Srini Pentyala,

This is Selina's parent. My daughter very enjoyed the camp. She loves it a lot. And teachers and students are all great. She came home everyday and told me what she learned and saw in classes . Ohhhh and the lunches too. She said teachers also gave them advises for what they can choose or apply when they applying college and what subjects. Because the summer camp has so many subjects and she saw everything she said in this way she can choose what she really wants in future. Thank you so much for everything. She said she wish the program is longer. She very very happy and enjoy it.Thank you for everything.

Kerry

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

As our fourth and final child, Aiden, completes the Science and Research Awareness Series Program, we wanted to take a moment to share how truly transformative this experience has been for our family. Each of our four children had the privilege of attending the program over the past several years, and we couldn't be more impressed with its depth and diversity. From engaging lectures and immersive hands-on workshops to SAT prep, college advisory sessions, and even the delightful exposure to different cuisines from local restaurants-this program delivered a holistic experience that extended far beyond academics. Our journey begin in 2019 when our oldest child, Kylie, discovered the career path of physician assistant through your program. Today, she has just completed her first year of PA school, a testament to the foundational spark your program ignited. In 2022, two of our children participated together, Kevin and Maylin - Kevin is now a junior chemical engineering major at Stony Brook University, and Maylin is preparing to begin her studies in biology at UConn this fall, both pursuing careers in medicine. Most recently, our youngest, Aiden, wrapped up his time with you, carrying forward the same excitement and inspiration that marked his siblings' paths.

This program has not only opened doors - it has helped shape futures. We wholeheartedly recommend it to any student with an interest in science or medicine. Your team has created an environment that cultivates curiosity, supports academic growth, and introduces young minds to the possibilities ahead. Thank you for everything you do to make this opportunity so impactful. Warm regards,

Laurie and Scott

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

My name is Sean and my daughter September participated in SARAS this year. SARAS was very well organized and gave her a great introduction to the BioMedical field. From the lecturers to the hands-on activities, this will be an experience that she will remember looking back one day. From what I can gather from the students that were in the program, I have no doubt that everyone's academic achievements and accolades are some of New York's finest. Every parent believes that their child is the best, smartest, and hardest working and all this could be true but where I see September stand out is her maturity, leadership and eagerness to learn. We would hear stories every night about her speakers, questions she asked, and activities for the day. She would often refer to her notes to let us know all the details even down to what she had for lunch. This was truly an amazing experience for her and will only deepen her commitment to this field. BTW it was a very impressive communication through emails from you to all parents and students. We enjoyed reading every one of them you sent. Thank you for everything.

Sean

Hello Dr. Pentyala,

I wanted to thank you for all the effort you put in to making the SARAS program so successful. I cannot imagine the effort it took to coordinate all the speakers and workshops! Truly a monumental effort!

As for the feedback - I have to admit, I enjoyed listening every day from my son on all the different topics that were presented. My favorite was the urologist! When Jacob was going through the day, he said, the urologist one, we shall not talk about!”. Of course he then proceeded to tell me everything in excruciating details! That one I had him repeat many times to me. I think the workshops were a great way to spice things up and keep the students interested. I suggest more of those and speakers with visuals! Visuals (slides/pictures/graphics) go a long way, as do real life stories and experiences (the mental health therapist was great - she spoke of several

clinical experiences). From my observation with my son, he seemed to provide more details and was more enthusiastic when talking about those presentations/speakers. I appreciated all the communication from you throughout the program! The program was immensely valuable for those who are interested in a career in medical field but not sure which path to take. It certainly helped Jacob to narrow his interests down. But the program went beyond just medical topics - it also covered areas like SATs and financial workshop. This has truly been a unique and beneficial program! Thank you so much for the opportunity to have my son participate in the program. Best regards,

Lucy

Dear Dr Pentyala

I wanted to drop a few lines to let you know my thoughts of your program. Valentino was not sure about his career plans prior to starting your program. The first few days he was taking it all in and was not sure about how he felt. However as the days went by he was totally excited by the learning experiences and having a better idea of the opportunities that lie ahead. He is now a lot more convinced about staying within medical field. For the first time in a long time I didn't have to wake him up to get ready. He would do it all by himself and excited to attend the classes. I would really recommend this program to anyone that is considering career options while in high school. Thanks again

LMF

Thanks for everything you provided , lectures, workshops, labs, and verity of lectures.

Everyday delicious food. My daughter Aarushi had very good time. Appreciate your dedication

Madhu

Hi Dr. Uncle!

My daughter, Madison, had an amazing time during SARAS. She went into it knowing that she wanted to pursue an education with a focus on medical research and your program gave her a taste of so many areas within in the field that it opened her up to so many different paths she can go down. It definitely reinforced her love of biology and made her excited to learn so much more. Thank you for this! All my best,

Belinda

Hi Srinivas,

First, I want to thank you and Stony Brook, so much for running the program. It was excellent from my perspective. Such an impressive experience for Grace. I know it must have been a lot of work given the scale of the agenda, tracking the students daily, lunch and then drafting such excellent daily updates. I read every one and as a parent it allowed me to be very informed and involved with Grace's day. I even knew about some of the nappers and made sure Grace wasn't one of them. I was picking Grace up most of the time and we would immediately discuss the agenda for the day; what she liked or didn't from a healthcare standpoint (all the interesting videos and presentations) , what she had for lunch (so much diversity! from Domino's to Indian) and whom she interacted with that day. She also appreciated the college and medical school information and the SAT prep. It was great that she learned CPR and other life saving skills. Her older sister had done research at Stony Brook in the same building so that was cool for her to experience as well. Thanks again for running the program with so much enthusiasm and energy. It was greatly appreciated by Grace and myself.

Mark

Dear Dr. Pentyala: The program was an incredible experience for my daughter, even though she was among the oldest participants and is preparing to start her first college semester in September. Throughout the three-week session, I enjoyed hearing about what each day offered, including the informational lectures from a wide range of professionals and the hands-on activities. These experiences provided a broad view of potential career paths my daughter could pursue, while also giving her a clearer sense of direction as she approaches the next stage of her academic journey. I

hope the program continues to provide valuable insights into her interest in medicine and helps guide her toward what excites her, as well as what may not be the right fit. Thank you for all the time and dedication you put into this program, and I look forward to speaking again soon. Mary.

Dr Pentyala

I want to let you know how happy we all are that our son Michael took your program. He enjoyed it so much. Everyday he came home happy and eager to share his day with us. He said that he wishes it was all summer long. He is very sad it is over. This program solidified his going forward in the path of medicine. He will be a senior this year and he has been taking classes in High School to prepare him! We are so thankful he was able to take this program and learn so much from it. Not only did he learn he made some nice friends with like-minded interests. Thank you for doing what you do and making it so much fun! Warmest Regards,

Melissa

Hi - this is Melissa, Brendan's mom.

We really enjoyed hearing from Brendan each day about who spoke, what he found interesting, how lunch was, etc. It gave us some great dinner time conversations. Overall, we were proud of Brendan for making the effort and happy with the structure that the course provided him. Thanks to you & the staff for making this a memorable experience for him!

Melissa

Dear Srini,

Thank you for such a wonderful program. I had been referred to it by a friend whose son attended a few years back. The program is ran so nicely and I love how you have exposed the children to all the different avenues of the healthcare field. Our daughter, Grace seemed to really love the program and took away from all the workshops. She knows cpr (singing staying alive while doing it), can pack a wound, understands the importance of a good nights rest as well as so many other topics discussed at SARAS. There WAS NOT a day during the program where she said she didn't want to go or was tired, every morning she awoke looking forward to the days agenda. Although currently, Grace does not want to persuade a career as a doctor, she does however want to peruse research & enjoyed the exposure she received. Stony Brook is her 1st choice college and attending this program solidified that decision (fingers crossed she is accepted 1st year!). Thank you again for such a wonderful program, as I told Grace it was the best money spent thus far on her! Good luck with marketing that salsa! Best regards,

Melissa & Vinny

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

My daughter stayed at her cousin's house on the weekdays, so I did not see her much during her participation in SARAS. When she came home on the weekends, she told us all about the surgeries that were included in the lectures and her new friends over dinner. She sent a lot of photos to the family group chat. She always came home with a smile on her face, so I'm happy she got the opportunity to participate in the program.

Sincerely, Michelle

Dear Dr. Pentyala, Richard had a fantastic time at SARAS over the past three weeks. Every day, he came home excited to tell us about how much he loved the lectures and how much fun he was having. He really enjoyed learning from the professionals you invited and truly appreciated the opportunity to engage with your wonderful team. Thank you for creating such a memorable and inspiring experience for him.

Mike

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

My name is Min, and I'm Patrick's mother. I just wanted to sincerely thank you for the amazing three weeks Patrick had during SARAS. It was a truly valuable experience. He not only learned a lot about the medical field and the college preparation process, but also discovered that there are many ways to be involved in healthcare

beyond becoming a doctor. The program opened his eyes to areas he had never seriously considered before, like dentistry, and now he's very interested in learning more. Patrick told me he feels very inspired and now has a strong desire to apply to Stony Brook. He also mentioned how much he appreciated seeing the importance of collaboration across different roles within the medical field. Thank you again for all the care and encouragement you gave the students over these past few weeks. Warm regards,

Min

Dr. Pentyala,

My child is Ishrat. She was so excited to go to the program ever since she applied and she loves it so much. She comes home and talks to me about it all of the time. I think it's very important that she goes to learn about medical opportunities and college. This is a very good program i would definitely recommend it to my youngest daughter and relatives.

Mohammed

Hello Dr. Pentyala, thanks to you and your team for organizing this program. My daughter said she loved it and it was a great opportunity for her to learn about the medical field. She was very excited about the hands on work and the catering everyday. I would definitely recommend this program to someone. Thank you!

Monita

Dear Dr Pentyala,

First of all, kudos for running SARAS for 20+ years (and counting). It takes a lot of dedication and hard work organizing such an event, for such a large audience for 3 weeks! (and tons of patience handling 125+ teens!)

😊. Not only were the sessions informative and extremely educational but you and your team kept it fun - to the extent that Jia was looking forward to the next day. It's not easy to get 15/16/17 year olds out of bed early on a summer day but you all did it and did it well! By the way, the lunches were raved about by all the kids - not just for the quality but the variety. It's a relief when the parent does not have to worry about what their kids will be eating each day. And great job on the final "snack pack" after the talent show. 🎉

My husband and I will miss a few things:

1. Our daughter Jia excitedly recounting her SARAS activities daily.
2. The friends both she and we made from the program - coordinating commuting, reconnecting with friends from the past - since kids came from all over our extended geographic area and from all backgrounds and walks of life.
3. Last but certainly not least, your daily recap emails - they were all-inclusive and funny. In fact, we would be looking forward to what you were going to write each afternoon. Really appreciate your sense of humor but making a firm point when needed. We felt like the parents were in class too! Sincere appreciation to you and your team for your consistent and utmost focus on our "next generation" 🎉

Thanks to you, Jia has decided to pursue (God willing) her future medical path at Stony Brook with the BS/MD program.

Teena and Jino

Dear Srinivas,

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the SARAS program. Sravya truly enjoyed the experience and was eager to share her thoughts each day about what she liked and any areas she felt less comfortable with. Your daily informative emails have been extremely helpful and will certainly guide us as we navigate the college selection and application process. Overall, the program was excellent. We appreciate all your support and guidance. Thanks once again!

Nagapraveena

Hello Dr. Pentyala,

I can't thank you enough for your caring, thoughtful, and above all, nurturing care you provided these students exploring a career in medicine. My daughter Samairah had a great time during the program. She especially enjoyed the hands-on skills like "stop the bleed" and CPR. Your passion and investment in these kids are evident in your sheer enthusiasm for doing everything you can to make this experience exciting, rewarding, and

inspiring. I myself am in healthcare and wish there was a program like this when I was in my earlier years, deciding on my future career in medicine. Thank you again,
Navpreet

Dear Dr. Pentyala, I would like to thank you for providing the experience of SARAS to my daughter and so many other children this summer. Personally I would like to say Roksolana had a great time throughout the program and always had great stories to share. She was able to make new connections with people in the program and seemed eager to come in every day. I believe that this program is a great step towards her future in the medical field. Thank you and your team for putting in all the effort to make the program a success every year. Best regards,

Oleh

Hello~~~

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone involved in the SARAS program at Stony Brook University. My son, Christopher, participated in the program this July and had an incredibly valuable experience during the three weeks. Through SARAS, he was introduced to a wide range of topics in medicine and science, and he came home each day excited to share what he had learned. The program not only deepened his understanding of the medical field but also inspired him to seriously consider pursuing a career in medicine. He also enjoyed the variety of lunch menus provided each day, which made the experience even more enjoyable. It was clear that the program was thoughtfully designed to care for both the academic and day-to-day needs of the students. Since completing the program, Christopher has become more motivated and focused on his future goals. He's now actively planning and preparing for the path to medical school. As a parent, I'm truly grateful for the positive impact this program had on him. I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Dr. Srinivas Pentyala for sending daily email updates to parents throughout the program. His thoughtful messages helped me stay connected to what my son was experiencing each day, and I truly appreciated the time and care he put into keeping us informed. Thank you again to the SARAS team, faculty, guest speakers, and especially Dr. Pentyala, for making this experience so meaningful and inspiring for our family.

Park

My name is Matthew and Courtney is my daughter. I must say as an employee of Stony Brook I was very happy to see this program offered. My daughter came home every day expressing to us, what she has learned from this program. Thankyou

Matthew

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

As a parent, I would like to thank you for organising such a wonderful program. Khush was exposed to so many aspects of medicine, research and a wide variety of jobs from EMT to helicopter operator. Khush would come home very excited and full of enthusiasm almost every day. He truly was fascinated by your different types of novel research and came home with a wide variety of questions for me.

Best regards, Preeti

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

Thank you so much for organizing such a unique and enriching program through SARAS 2025. As a parent, I truly appreciate the incredible effort, thoughtfulness, and dedication you and your team put into giving students this opportunity to explore the world of medicine, science, and research. My daughter, Sahasra, came home each day filled with excitement about what she had learned, and it was heartwarming to see how inspired and motivated she became. The exposure she received, the hands-on experiences, and the chance to interact with such accomplished professionals have made a lasting impact on her. Thank you again for everything you've done to make this program so meaningful—not just academically, but personally as well. It's clear that SARAS is more than a summer program; it's an experience that opens minds and hearts. Warm regards,

Raju

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

I really appreciate giving Arnav a chance to be part of SARAS program. It was fantastic experience for him. Even though we got daily updates in your emails, Arnav loved to talk about how his day went every single day of SARAS. I could clearly see an uptick in his level of confidence and his strong willingness to be part of medical community. I would also take this opportunity to appreciate the planning and operation of overall program. Based on all the information that we received prior to start of the program, I felt no need to ask even a single question. Very detailed and well planned. I would thank everyone who was involved in planning and execution of SARAS this year. Though you have been executing this program for 21 years, I wish you the very best to continue hosting it for many more years to come. Many thanks and regards

Ranjan and Nidhi

Dear Dr Pentyala

I wanted to take a moment to thank you for initiating and organizing this wonderful venture yearly for kids who are interested in Medicine. From the daily report and the enthusiasm with which Aryan would get up and get ready to go to the program which involved being dropped at the train station, taking a train every day – spending the entire day at Stony Brook, taking the train back; no matter how exhausted he was, he was always full of stories and updates about the day and ready to get going the next morning, we are excited to see how it has created an indelible impression on him and this is definitely going to affect his future career choices. It takes a lot of effort to organize such a big program yearly and honing these children's learning skills And I would like a moment to applaud you for that as well! I wish you and SARAS best of luck and hope that it will be a pivotal part of not only Aryan's, but of all the students as well! Best regards,

Rashmi

Hello Dr. Srinivas Pentyala,

We want to express our sincere gratitude for the incredible program you led for the children. The energy, opportunity, camaraderie, and wealth of information and exposure you along with your team provided were truly inspiring for these young minds. My daughter Priya was especially enthusiastic about the guest speakers—she referred to that segment as the “workshop,” I believe. She thoroughly enjoyed every single day and even found herself sharing tips with her older sister on various topics! The ophthalmology and dental sessions stood out to her in particular, and she spoke about them with great excitement. As parents, we couldn't be more grateful for this opportunity. For high schoolers to hear directly from real-life professionals, observe their work, and engage with them is such a rare and valuable experience. We also appreciated all the emails—they gave us a vivid sense of the program's positive and vibrant atmosphere. Thank you again for your dedication and for creating such a meaningful experience. Best Regards,

Rekha

Good evening, Doctor. My name is Richard. I am the father of Kayleigh, who attended your program for the past three weeks. Kayleigh is an introvert who rarely ventures outside of her comfort zone, so I was very surprised when she requested to attend SARAS. I am delighted with the results. Every day she would share her observations, and it was always with a big smile on her face. She clearly enjoyed the program, and I believe she is now better equipped to decide if a medical career is a realistic choice for her. Thank you for your work with all the young, ambitious students. For a teenager, preparing for the future can be confusing and frightening. Programs like SARAS make the journey less daunting, and, as in Kayleigh's case, can provide motivation and inspiration. I am proud of my daughter for attending and completing the sessions, and I am grateful to you for making it a great experience.

Richard

Dear Dr. Pentyala, I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to extend my sincere appreciation for the incredible opportunity my son, Dhilan, had to participate in the SARAS 2025 program at Stony Brook University this summer. From day one, the program exceeded our expectations. It offered an enriching, engaging, and eye-opening experience that truly sparked my son's passion for science, research, and healthcare. The lectures from esteemed professionals, hands-on exposure to various medical and scientific fields, and the chance to interact with peers who share similar interests have left a lasting impact on him—not just academically, but personally as well. The easy-going human touch in day-to-day ice-breakers have helped him connect and not be intimidated by a challenging field. He came home each day inspired and eager to share what he had learned, from breakthroughs in medical technology to the ethical dimensions of healthcare and research. The diversity of topics covered and the caliber of the speakers opened his eyes to possibilities he had never considered before. This experience has helped him clarify his goals and solidify his aspiration to pursue a future in the biomedical sciences. It is also a bonus having his favorite restaurant Saghar cater for Lunch! Thank you to the entire SARAS team for your dedication, organization, and commitment to mentoring the next generation of scientists and healthcare leaders. Your work makes a meaningful difference, and we are grateful for the role you have played in shaping this formative experience for our son. With gratitude,

Ritesh

Dear Dr. Pentyala and the SARAS Team,

I would like to express my deepest gratitude for the incredible opportunity my daughter (Danielle) had to participate in the SARAS program this summer. It was truly a transformative experience for Danielle to learn about the different specialties in the medical field. Danielle was inspired by the well-coordinated program and the guest speakers who generously shared their knowledge and insights. The hands-on learning and different activities helped her deepen her understanding of medicine but also strengthened her passion for pursuing a career in medicine. All these different activities in the SARAS program have left a lasting impact on both Danielle's academic journey and personal growth. Of course, the comments and smile on her face of how Dr. Srinivas makes them feel, excited to participate in the program, funny, and with a very good sense of humor. The communication of the program was exceptional, clear, and concise. As I read all the daily emails, I couldn't help but feel a strong desire to be a part of the program myself. :) We are truly grateful for the experience of SARA's program. Your commitment and hard work in directing the program and nurturing future medical professionals are invaluable. Thank you again! Warmest regards,

Rolin and Cindy

Hello,

We are writing to express our sincere appreciation for the opportunity our son, Trevor, had to participate in the SARAS program this summer. We are very happy to report that Trevor thoroughly enjoyed the experience. He looked forward to attending each day and consistently shared with us how much he was learning. The program not only expanded his knowledge in various areas of science and research but also helped him learn more about himself. It has truly played a meaningful role in shaping some of his future academic and career interests. Thank you again for offering such a valuable and inspiring program. We're grateful for the time and effort your team puts into making SARAS such a positive and impactful experience for students. Thank you,

Clever and Sarah

Dear Dr. Pentyala, I wanted to sincerely thank you for the opportunity you provided through this year's SARAS program. My daughter, Sabreen, attended and had a truly enriching experience. She gained invaluable exposure to various medical fields and a clearer understanding of the path to becoming a doctor. She especially appreciated the engaging lectures, hands-on workshops, and the

chance to learn directly from so many knowledgeable speakers. The provided lunch was a nice bonus, and she found your sessions especially entertaining and memorable. Thank you again for all your effort in making this program so meaningful for aspiring pre-med students. Warm regards, Samia

Good morning, Dr. Pentyala,

My name is Seema, and I am Raphael's mom. Raphael attended the SARAS program this summer and thoroughly enjoyed it. Thank you for your thoughtfulness in creating this program and introducing the students to the various practice areas in a way that was both informative and engaging. Raphael would tell us about the adventures of each day. He especially enjoyed the EMT portion of the program and the simulation during the last week. Thank you for taking the time and energy to create a program that will give the next generation of potential medical practitioners some insight into the field. Thanks,

Seema and Joseph

Hello Dr Pentyala hope all is well. Thank you for giving my son, Nicolas, the chance to be part of SARAS this summer. It was a great experience for him. Every day, he came home talking about what he learned, the speakers he heard from, and how it opened his eyes to different parts of medicine and science. He was engaged, motivated, and really enjoyed the environment you created. I could tell that the program left a strong impact on him. We are grateful for the effort you put into making SARAS educational, fun, and meaningful for the students. All the best, Sergio

Hello Dr. Srinivas, Thank you so much for putting together this SARAS program. This program provided a unique experience for our daughter, not only academically but also in real-life skills. She gained the confidence to commute long distances independently, which has greatly boosted her self-assurance. Gopika particularly enjoyed the hands-on experiences, such as participating in workshops, engaging in lab activities, working with manikins, and analyzing bacterial growth. These activities were not only educational but also a lot of fun for her. She made numerous new friends and had the opportunity to interact with many esteemed doctors and researchers. Some of these interactions were truly inspiring for her. Gopika has always dreamed of becoming a doctor, and this program has certainly provided her with the guidance and motivation to pursue her goal. We would recommend other parents to enroll their kids in the SARAS program. Thank you once again, Neha and Jayesh

Hello sir, It was great pleasure to have my son Prasanna in the program. He had a very good training and also had lot of fun too. He made new friends and learnt a lot about college program. Thanks for giving me an opportunity to attend on the final day event especially knowing about the college admission process but missed the talent show. But it will be proud for lot of children to show their talent in the talent show and I learnt a lot of new things about college admission. Thanks for providing the Indian snacks to my son on the end of the day. Thank you, Shanmugapriya

Hi Dr. Pentyala,

I cannot thank you and your team enough for the wonderful opportunity my son, Alexander, had the last 3 weeks at SARAS. Everyday on the drive home, he would tell me about the speakers and workshops from that day, and how much he learned from them. Of course, he also told me about the lunches and how good they were! Reading each day's itinerary, I knew Alex was fortunate to be exposed to such a wide range of areas and professions in the medical field. Alex was especially drawn to orthopedics, hand surgery, as well as oral maxillofacial surgery. The college admissions and test taking workshops were very helpful, as Alex is heading

into his senior year of high school. He really enjoyed speaking with your team about their experiences with college admissions and navigating life in college. Finally, the talent show was a great way to end the program. Alex knew he wanted to participate from the day he read the email about it in May! In closing, thank you and the entire faculty and staff who helped make SARAS such a success this summer. Alex truly enjoyed the program, and it has opened his eyes to the multitude of opportunities there are in the field of medicine.

Regards,

Stephanie

Hi! hope you are doing great !

I'll start off by saying, i enjoyed your very detailed and very funny emails. You left no questions unanswered. I also appreciated your quick response to emails. From what i witnessed with the pick up and drop off car rides to and from the LIRR, there were days the girls (Fatima & Ausiya) were excited to tell me what they learned and did. Over all this opportunity opened up their eyes and made them rethink their goals and have a better understanding of how to start and what is needed to make things happen according to their future college plans. Thank you for all that you did, Wahida

Good afternoon Dr Pentyala,

It was such a pleasure to attend the final day of SARAS. The presentation from the admissions director was very informative and I appreciated her candid discussion about selecting majors. The talent show was fun and it's great to see the students showcase their many talents. You assembled a remarkable group of specialists as lecturers and guest speakers. Milana called home each day and told me all the things she was learning and which lecture she enjoyed the most. Thank you for exposing the kids to such a variety of professions and many they may not have even thought of before. My daughter and her friend stayed 5 minutes from campus to attend instead of commuting from the city each day, but both girls say they would have travelled on the subway and LIRR because the program was interesting, they learned a lot, they met new friends, and you were very funny! She also loved the hands one experiences. I will definitely recommend the program to other students/parents. Thank you for continue to host SARAS and I hope to hear it's continuing for many years to come. Kind Regards,

Veronica

Good morning Dr. Pentyala,

Thank you and your team for organizing this great program. The program was well organized and the activities the students had at the program definitely helped their college preparation and even future career development. Thank you for the daily emails you sent so that we, as parents, can stay informed about what (good and bad) was going on at the program.

Vicky

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

I wanted to take a moment to thank you and the entire SARAS team for providing such a meaningful and enriching experience for the students this summer. Faryal thoroughly enjoyed the program and came home each day excited to share what they had learned. The wide range of expert presentations, hands-on activities, and opportunities to interact with peers who share similar interests truly made this program stand out. It not only deepened their understanding of the medical and scientific fields but also inspired them to continue exploring potential careers in healthcare. We are very grateful for the time, effort, and care that went into organizing SARAS. Thank you again for making such a positive impact. Warm regards,

Waseem

Hello,

I'm Faye's mother. My daughter always has something to say about every day of the program—whether it's about seeing a helicopter in real life or doing a session on packing and binding wounds. Based on her words, I feel that this program provides many novel experiences for high schoolers, as well as gives many insights for them on what they might potentially want to do. Thank you so much for continuing to host the SARAS program, and I really hope that it continues so that future high school kids can experience these wonderful activities like my daughter did. Thank you so much,

Yan

Dr. Pentyala,

This is Zhaozheng, Ziya's father. Thank you so much for organizing this great camp! There are so many nice things about it. Just name a few:

1. Ziya's Mom and I work at Stony Brook. We three do car-pool to the campus around 7:30AM. It's so nice that Ziya can't sleep till noon :) and she had the early morning time to study for her SAT.

2. We enjoyed the sharing from Ziya when we drove back home together. I also enjoyed reading every email you sent before I left my office. They were great activities for the high schoolers!

3. I believe this camp triggered Ziya's motivation to pursue her college career in this field.

I will definitely encourage my younger kid to continue in this great camp!

Thanks and regards,

Zhaozheng

Dear Dr. Srini,

Thank you for allowing my child, Anna, attend this thoughtful and educational program. It was a pleasure allowing my child to attend SARAS and for her to participate in this memorial experience. Thank you for enlightening the students on the different fields of medicine and taking care of them. Sincerely,

Zhao
