Creating Leaders With Diverse World Views
Read about Johns Hopkins’ efforts to cultivate a diverse pool of health care leaders through programs like the Johns Hopkins Medicine Scholars and the newly announced international scholarship program.

School of Medicine
Increasing Diversity Beyond our Borders

In 2006, the School of Medicine committed itself to developing programs to increase the number of minority students who matriculate from the school. Through the Johns Hopkins Medicine Scholars program, the school is producing diverse, talented leaders in medicine – some of whom have graduated and are practicing physicians at leading institutions across the country. See our Alumni Update below to learn more about one of these scholars.*

This commitment has also resulted in a broader effort to recruit student leaders who bring a different view to health care challenges, like addressing health disparities or caring for underserved populations. In April, the School of Medicine announced an exciting new step in its journey to nurture the next generation of health care innovators – an international scholarship program.

The program, sponsored by Johns Hopkins Medicine International, provides financial assistance to aspiring international medical students who are accepted at the school but are unable to obtain the financial resources needed for their studies. Most non-citizens are ineligible to receive financial aid from the U.S. government, making cost a barrier for many international students who apply to U.S. medical schools.

These scholarships continue to build on a foundation of inclusion that originated with founding Hopkins leaders like William H. Welch, Alfred Blalock, Med ’22, Samuel P. Asper, Med ’40, and continues with individuals like Mike Weisfeldt, Med ’65, and Charles Wiener. Their vision of
organized the first annual Hopkins Opportunity for Pre-Med Education (HOPE) Day - a symposium to prepare minorities in the region to realize their potential. One day, Fatusin wants to make specialty care more available in her native country of Nigeria.

If you would like to help students achieve their dream of becoming a doctor, consider making a gift to the Johns Hopkins Medicine Scholars or the international scholarship program. Or consider donating to the Annual Giving Scholarship Fund, which helps Hopkins attract and retain the best and brightest students regardless of financial need.

Alumni Update

Passionate About Improving Health Care Access

Maria Esteli Garcia, Med ’11, was a Johns Hopkins Medicine Scholar and is currently a first-year internal medicine resident at the University of California at San Francisco.

Garcia, who relocated to the U.S. from Mexico as a child, is committed to improving health care access of the underserved, particularly Latino immigrants. During medical school, she spent a year researching quality improvement in HIV clinics in Tanzania as part of a program sponsored by the National Institutes of Health. She also cofounded Program Salud (now called Bienestar), a coalition of Hopkins medical, public health and nursing students who encourage Latino students to enroll in health care tracks in college and earlier.

While her career goals are still taking shape, Garcia says she plans to continue her focus on international medicine and is interested in working with individuals living with HIV and AIDS. Garcia, who is fluent in Spanish and Portuguese, says she’s struck by how grateful patients are to communicate in their native language. “It’s really important that our workforce be more representative of the populations we serve,” said Garcia.

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Student News

Biomedical Engineering: Improving Global Health Care

More than 300 attendees gathered in the Armstrong Medical Education Building on May 7 for the 2012 Johns Hopkins Biomedical Engineering Design Day, an annual event showcasing the talent of biomedical engineering students.

During this year’s design day, a team of graduate students unveiled FeverPoint, a device they hope will lower the number of still births and deaths from fever-related illnesses in developing countries. FeverPoint is a simple self-test using a cotton thread and a drop of blood...
On May 2, Bioethicist Ruth R. Faden was joined by 175 Johns Hopkins alumni and friends for a thought-provoking conversation about the ethical questions that emerge as health care becomes individualized at Join the Conversation in Atlanta.

Dr. Faden used the best-selling book, The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, to raise important questions about medical care, made especially complex in an age of technologies facilitating individualized health. To learn more, view the event highlights on rising.jhu.edu.

BabyBeats, another device that was unveiled, is a fetal heart rate monitor powered by a rechargeable cell phone battery and costs just $10.

Other global health projects included a machine to stop postpartum hemorrhage and a new tool for treating cervical cancer.

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* Excerpts from this e-newsletter are from the June 2012 issue of Dome.