

NSU's Pre-Health Day

Saturday, April 14, 2018

Huizenga Sales Institute

Hosted by Career Development,
the Halmos College of Natural Sciences and
Oceanography and,
Undergraduate Academic Advising



Pre-Health Day Program Schedule

Huizenga Sales Institute

- 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.....Breakfast Provided
- 8:00 – 10:00 a.m..... Mock Interviews
- 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.....Resource Fair involving NSU Graduate Programs,
International Medical Schools,
Healthcare Opportunities and Additional Resources
- 10:00 – 10:10 a.m.....Medical School Interview Presentation,
Dr. Vladimir Beljanski
- 10:10 – 10:15 a.m..... Welcome Halmos College Speaker,
Dr. Richard E. Dodge
- 10:15 a.m.– 10:25 a.m.....Opening Speaker,
Dr. Irving Rosenbaum
- 10:25 – 10:45 a.m..... Dr. Katherine Lorenzo Sirage,
Dentist
- 10:45 – 11:05 a.m..... Dr. Andrea Levin,
Pharmacist
- 11:10 – 11:30 a.m..... Dr. Sunil Patel,
Osteopathic Doctor
- 11:35 – 11:55 a.m..... Dr. Catalina Rodriguez,
Osteopathic Doctor
- Noon – 12:45 p.m..... Panel,
Dr. Michael Bacigalupi, Dr. Cyril Blavo, Dr. Tambi Braun
Dana Altschul Haimo, Dr. Jennifer Hastings,
and Dr. Rania Margoni

Speaker Biographies

10:25 – 10:45 a.m.

Dr. Katherine Lorenzo Sirage, DMD
The Journey to Becoming a Dentist and Beyond

Florida International University Honors College Graduate 2011
Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine Graduate 2015
Practicing General Dentist in Broward County, FL

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The process of applying and getting into dental school can be stressful, but successful time management is key. I will speak about strategies I applied to be able to obtain my undergraduate degree in Biology with a minor in Chemistry in 3 years and go straight into dental school. Dental school came with many difficult challenges, but those amazing moments that reminded me why I pursued this career in the first place always prevailed. My experiences on my mission trips to Jamaica are ones that I will always cherish. Having graduated from dental school 3 years ago, I will speak about my transition from student dentist to practicing general dentist and what that entails in the real world! Dentistry is a field that is constantly advancing and challenging you, and requires not only mental but also technical expertise, but you can make a difference everyday by giving patients a healthy, stable mouth and restoring confidence in their smile. I encourage you to see what everyday life can be as a dentist, and if that is what you truly want to do, don't stop until you reach your goals.

10:45 – 11:05 a.m.

Dr. Andrea Levin, PharmD, BCACP
From Farquhar To Pharmacist:
Tips For The Future Pharmacist

Bachelor of Science (Biology), Halmos College of Natural Science and Oceanography
(Nova Southeastern University Class of 2007)
Doctor of Pharmacy, Nova Southeastern University College of Pharmacy Class of 2009
Assistant Professor, Nova Southeastern University College of Pharmacy: 2012-Present

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Growing up, I knew that I wanted to be a pharmacist. From being in charge of distributing the multivitamins for my family when I was 5 to learning about pharmacy from my dad and finally volunteering in a hospital pharmacy,

I knew pharmacy was for me. However, when I was in high school, I started to think about a career in education so then I was stuck. Education or pharmacy, what do I do? After doing my research, I realized that I could do both, so at the age of 16, my goal was to be a faculty in a College of Pharmacy. I was accepted into the Dual Admissions Pharmacy Program at NSU when I was a senior in high school and I was on track to accomplish my goal.

Thinking back to the girl who was 5 to the pharmacist and professor I am today, I can't help but think of the steps taken to achieve the goals I had set forth for myself. My objectives of today's presentation are to describe the diverse opportunities available for pharmacists, illustrate the steps needed to become a pharmacist, and to provide you with some tips on how to be a successful student pharmacist and practicing pharmacist. Having my dad and sister practicing in the field of pharmacy truly opened my eyes to how special the profession is, and I hope to pass along that enthusiasm and insight to you today.

11:10 – 11:30 a.m.

Dr. Sunil Patel, D.O., B.S.
Path to Osteopathic Medicine from Nova Southeastern University

Halmos College of Natural Sciences and Oceanography, B.S. Biology 2002
Midwestern University: Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine; Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, 2006
University of Massachusetts Medical Center; Internal Medicine Residency, 2009
Kansas University Medical Center; Nephrology Fellowship, 2011

Associate Professor at Western College of Osteopathic Medicine
Associate Physician at Advanced Medical and Kidney Institute
Associate Physician at Davita Dialysis Victorville and Apple Valley
Medical Director at US Renal Home Dialysis Victorville

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Dr. Patel was born in India but was raised in USA. He moved to USA in 1991 at age of 11 years old. He has had ambition of becoming a doctor since age 16. He completed his High School at Wildwood High in New Jersey and graduated as a Valedictorian. He then

received his Bachelor of Science in Biology with Honors from Nova Southeastern University in 2002. He was enrolled in the dual admission program here at NSU; however, for personal reasons, joined Midwestern University: Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from CCOM in 2006. From there, he went to University of Massachusetts Medical Center to complete his Residency in Internal Medicine (2009). He continued his education and sub-specialized in Nephrology at Kansas University Medical Center (2011). He enjoys partaking in lecturing for Continuing Medical Education (CME) and as well is active with participation/completion of CME. For him, education is a lifelong commitment!

After completion of fellowship training, he immediately joined a private group practice with High Desert Nephrology, Victorville, CA. He subsequently took risks to open a solo-practice in Internal Medicine and Nephrology in 2013. Currently, he is self-employed, medical director and works as an Associate Physician at Advanced Medical and Kidney Institute.

He is an active member of the Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of California (OPSC), American Medical Association (AMA), American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and San Bernardino Medical Association.

Dr. Patel's interests include volunteering, charity work, community organization, photography and music. He is married and has two sons. His favorite activity is spending his time with his family and friends.

His medical interests include Diabetes Mellitus, Hypertension, Cardiovascular Disease and Nephrotic Syndrome. He enjoys teaching medical students at Western College of Osteopathic Medicine.

11:35 – 11:55 a.m.

Dr. Catalina Rodriguez, D.O. ***From Biology Undergrad to*** ***Anesthesiology Residence***

Halmos College of Natural Sciences and Oceanography,
B.S. Biology 2012
Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic
Medicine Graduate 2017
Current Resident at Anesthesiology Residency Program,
Kendall Regional Hospital, Miami, FL

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Dr. Catalina Rodriguez graduated from NSU with a bachelor's degree in Biology and went on to pursue medical school at Nova Southeastern University's College of Osteopathic Medicine. During her

undergraduate and graduate studies at NSU, Dr. Rodriguez participated in community outreach in her community and abroad in hopes to positively impact the lives of others. She was also active in research and advocating for the osteopathic profession through organizations and conferences in Washington D.C. Dr. Rodriguez successfully matched into her first choice for residency at the Anesthesiology Residency Program at Kendall Regional Hospital. She is currently completing her first year of residency and will begin her anesthesiology training this upcoming July. Dr. Rodriguez enjoys traveling, yoga, and of course, is very passionate about medicine. She understands the challenges that come with pursuing the medical field as a career and is more than happy to share her experiences and advice for those interested

Panel, Noon – 12:45 p.m.

Dr. Michael Bacigalupi OD, MS, FAAO ***My Journey to Optometry***

Optometrist and Educator

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Dr. Michael Bacigalupi grew up in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. His father was a letter carrier for the US Postal Service and his mother was an office manager for a local optometrist. He decided at a young age that he wanted to become an optometrist and has never regretted this decision. He is proud of his career and hopes to inspire others to consider the profession of optometry. Dr. Bacigalupi earned an Associate of Arts degree in Chemistry from Schreiner University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Optometry from the University of Houston. In 1993, he graduated magna cum laude from the University of Houston College of Optometry with a Doctor of Optometry degree. He earned a Master in Business Management with emphasis on Leadership at the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship at Nova Southeastern University.

Prior to joining the faculty of Nova Southeastern University, Dr. Bacigalupi was in private optometric practice for 12 years. He is licensed as an Optometric Glaucoma Specialist in Texas. His private practice focused primarily on ocular disease and glaucoma care. He served on the Board of Directors of the Texas Optometric Association (TOA) and was honored as the Texas Young Optometrist of the Year in 2003. Dr. Bacigalupi is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and is a clinical examiner for the National Board of Examiners in Optometry. He has been honored by Lions Club International with the International Service Award for his

many eye care mission trips into Central America. Dr. Bacigalupi was appointed Assistant Dean for Student Affairs of the College of Optometry in 2008. He is a lecturer for the 4th practice management course entitled "Current Topics in Practice Management" and lab instructor for "Optometric Theory and Methods." Dr. Bacigalupi is a frequent author and lecturer in the areas of practice management, student affairs, and admissions.

Dr. Cyril Blavo, DO, MPH and TM, FACOP

Director/Professor of Public Health

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Dr. Cyril Blavo is a Professor of Pediatrics and Public Health at Nova Southeastern University (NSU). He is a practicing board-certified Pediatrician as well as Director of the Public Health Program. As a volunteer, Dr. Blavo serves as President of International Health Initiatives, Inc, a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote, develop and support health promotion and disease prevention initiatives for underserved populations, domestically and globally.

Dr. Blavo serves on a variety of community-based committees and boards including the Broward Regional Health Planning Council (Board of Directors), the United Way Health Impact Committee and the One Community Partnership (Governance Board). His humanitarian efforts have earned him several awards including the Heart Award from the Broward County Children's Consortium, the Arnold Melnick Child Advocate Award, and a Living Tribute Award from NSU's Osteopathic medical school's Alumni Association. He is a seven-time recipient of the Golden Apple Award for teaching excellence in the medical school. As a hobby, Dr. Blavo produces African cultural performing and creative arts events.

Dr. Tambi Braun CCC/SLP

Path to Speech Language Pathology

Associate Professor and NSSLHA Mentor
Department of Speech-Language Pathology
Dr. Pallavi Patel College of Health Care Sciences

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Dr. Tambi Braun CCC/SLP is an Associate Professor at Nova Southeastern University. She is a lead faculty member for several classes including Neuroanatomy and Physiology, and Craniofacial Anomalies. She served on the executive board of FCPA for 6 years and was President in 2009. Dr. Braun served on the International Outreach Committee of ACPA and has presented nationally in Cleft Palate and Resonance disorders.

She is considered a leading consultant in pediatric voice and resonance assessment and intervention in the South Florida region. Dr. Braun is invested in community service and spends much time working with students on many community projects. She grew up in South Africa and her journey in working with children with Cleft Palate began there working in community-based hospital. Dr. Braun has been on the Joe DiMaggio Cleft Palate team for over 15 years.

Dana Altschul Haimo, M.M.S., PA-C

My Journey: From the NSU College Classroom to the Dermatology Office Exam Room

Nova Southeastern University Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, August 2005-May 2008
Dual Admission Physician Assistant, Honors Student, Biology Major, Psychology Minor
Nova Southeastern University Physician Assistant Program, Graduating Class of 2010
Practicing Certified Physician Assistant in Dermatology in Hallandale, Florida since November 2010

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I was introduced to the Physician Assistant profession as a high school sophomore during a pre-medical program. I always desired to be in the medical field as I enjoyed science, problem solving, and interacting with others. I decided to learn more about what a PA does and if I could see myself becoming one. I began shadowing my now supervising physician in 2004. At the time, he had a physician assistant working with him, so I had the opportunity to observe their interaction, learn dermatologic terminology and procedures, and strengthen my interpersonal communication skills. I knew I could see myself as an integral part of the patient's care and was determined to become a physician assistant.

Once accepted as a dual admission student, my undergraduate journey began. I had a rigorous schedule for three years, which included required science courses and honors program seminars. I was on the executive board of pre-medical clubs and was a peer tutor at Academic Services. It was crucial to have an organized and strict schedule, which I feel helped prepare me well for the challenging and intense coursework in PA school. Being a PA student taught me to persevere and gave me confidence to apply my knowledge

Dr. Jennifer Hastings
TV Healthcare

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Born in New York to a Colombian mother and Puerto Rican father, Dr. Hastings has had the opportunity to travel to various countries and see first-hand the impact of a fast paced lifestyle and stress on health. She has been involved in one of the top Natural Health care professions in our country for over 22 years and in practice for almost 15 years.

Deeply called to help her community achieve better health, she pursued her bachelors in biology and then doctors in Chiropractic from Life University in YYYY. Currently living in South Florida, Dr. Hastings has not only helped thousands in her practice and through her Wellness Workshops in leadership conferences, churches and corporations, but she has educated millions through national and international TV on shows such as Despierta America, Tu Desayuno Alegre, and alongside 2006 Miss Universe in La Revista de Zuleyka.

Lifestyle educational workshops and TV segments are shared with the members of the community providing tools for Healing and Full Life Expression! It is her goal to Empower, Educate and call into Action all those she can reach to achieve better health and Express their Optimum Potential!

Dr. Rania Margonis, P.T
My Journey to Physical Therapy

College of Healthcare Sciences

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Dr. Margonis is a licensed Physical Therapist who has practiced in inpatient and outpatient adult rehabilitation settings since 2009. She received a BA degree in Biology and History & Sociology of Science from the University of Pennsylvania in 2001, and a Doctor of Physical Therapy from Nova Southeastern University in 2009. Prior to joining the faculty of NSU's Department of Physical Therapy, Dr. Margonis worked in the acute rehabilitation unit in the Memorial Healthcare System. She developed a passion for working with patients with neurological disorders including spinal cord injury, brain injury, stroke, multiple sclerosis, and Parkinson's Disease. She was eventually promoted to Supervisor of Rehabilitative Services, where she oversaw inpatient therapy staff operations and collaborated with psychiatrists, nursing, and case workers to ensure high-quality interdisciplinary care and patient outcomes. She now continues to serve as a consultant concentrating on

projects related to optimization and development of new modules to improve documentation accuracy for clinical outcomes, reimbursement, and potential research data collection.

At the start of 2017, Dr. Margonis transitioned from being an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Physical Therapy to a full-time position. Her time is currently shared between clinical settings and the PT classroom. She evaluates and treats patients with neurological disorders in the NSU Rehabilitation Clinic, where she is also developing her skills for custom wheelchair seating assessments and assistive technology. In the classroom, she functions as lab instructor for hands-on coursework in the entry-level DPT program, including Clinical Anatomy, Exercise Physiology, Neuromuscular Systems, Systems Management, and Applied Clinical Decision-Making.

Dr. Margonis also serves as a mentor and course leader for NSU's Neurologic Physical Therapy Residency program. In addition to the courses is currently involved in, her academic and professional interests include movement system diagnoses, clinical and interprofessional education, interdisciplinary care and discharge planning models, and community wellness programming.

Resources



ROSS UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



St. George's University
THINK BEYOND

 **NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY**

College of Dental Medicine

College of Optometry

Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Allopathic Medicine

Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine

Master of Public Health Program

Master of Science in Biological Sciences with a concentration In Health Studies

Physician Assistant Program

Tutoring and Testing Center

Nova Southeastern University Career Development

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