



## Grads Preside Over Largest-Ever Grand Rounds at SGU

A time-honored event at many medical schools, Grand Rounds allow students to learn from practicing physicians, those who were in their audience's shoes mere years prior. In March, the presentations carried extra meaning at St. George's University as 16 graduates met with a record audience to shed light on what's most important as they progress through medical school and what lies ahead.

"It was a heartwarming and rewarding experience to give back to the school and community who molded me into the physician I am today," said Purvi Parikh, MD SGU '08, a private and faculty allergist/immunologist at Allergy and Asthma Associates of Murray Hill and NYU

Langone Medical Center. "I hope to offer the same mentorship for these students that I have received from previous SGU alums."

"We all had an excellent experience being a part of Grand Rounds and speaking with the current students," said Dr. Shane Svoboda, MD SGU '10, a PGY-4 general surgery resident at Sinai Hospital in Baltimore. "We have been in their position and can empathize with the uncertainty they are feeling. We enjoyed being able to help the future classes and having most of the answers to their questions."

After their introductions, alumni gave a brief overview of what students

**ROUNDS**, continued on page 2



St. George's University graduates sit down with current students to discuss the road to residency and a career in medicine.

Help SGU Recruit the Best and Brightest Students.

St. George's University  
c/o University Support Services, LLC  
The North American Correspondent  
3500 Sunrise Highway, Building 300  
Great River, New York 11739-9002



## SO YOU WANT TO BE AN AAMP MEMBER ...

With the **Alumni Admission Mentor Program (AAMP)**, St. George's University graduates can connect with prospective students in a variety of ways. We would welcome your assistance whenever and however you're available. But you may be thinking ...

### My schedule is very busy.

We understand! If you can't make it to any of our scheduled events, there are several other opportunities to get involved, ranging from university visits and college fairs to welcome sessions and information sessions in select cities.

### I don't see any events near me.

The event list is *always* developing, so check [sgu.edu/infosession](http://sgu.edu/infosession) for cities and dates as these sessions are

confirmed. Also, on their own time, we encourage grads to meet with pre-health advisors and/or pre-medicine clubs at area colleges.

### I don't like to speak in public.

No worries. SOM and SVM webinars are held throughout the year and allow you to connect with students that way. We also invite you to submit your contact information and biography to our Alumni Volunteer

Directory, connecting you with colleagues and prospective students in your area.

### I'm ready! How can I help?

Great! Upcoming info sessions are listed on the back of this newsletter. Call Betsy Mills at (800) 899-6337 ext. 9 1213, outside the US and Canada at +1 (631) 665-8500 ext. 9 1213, or by email at [bmills@sgu.edu](mailto:bmills@sgu.edu) and let her know how you'd like to help!

## Featured AAMP Volunteers



**Ivan Kamikovski, MD**  
Class of 2013

Dr. Kamikovski is a PGY-1 orthopaedic surgery resident at the University of Ottawa. Originally from Sarajevo, he and his family immigrated to Canada when he was 8, and he went on to earn his bachelor's and master's degrees there before attending SGU. Dr. Kamikovski hopes to one day lead enthusiastic residents through surgical cases and teach students at bedside. As an AAMP member, he assists SGU by visiting with students at Ottawa information sessions.

**Janet Weistock, DVM**  
Class of 2004

Dr. Weistock is a full-time associate veterinarian at a small animal private practice outside her hometown of Baltimore. Although she and her brother raised German Shepherds, rabbits, guinea pigs, gerbils, and even a snake growing up, she primarily provides medical care and soft-tissue surgical services for dogs and cats. She gives back to her alma mater by conducting student interviews and helping out with area information sessions.



**Alexis Moren, MD, MPH**  
Class of 2006 (MPH)/2010 (MD)

Dr. Moren is a fourth-year general surgery resident at Oregon Health and Science University in Portland, and plans to pursue a trauma critical care fellowship. She is passionate about international public health, having visited Haiti to educate people regarding primary, secondary, or tertiary prevention, while also operating on patients in need. Dr. Moren has been an SGU student counselor since 2008, and participates in webinars and Portland info sessions.



## SGU Hosts Record Alumni Grand Rounds

**ROUNDS**, *continued from page 1*  
can expect when they complete their basic science years in Grenada and the important considerations they must make through clinical rotations and approaching residency. A brief question-and-answer session with the audience gave way to small group discussions based on subspecialty, during which graduates answered questions ranging from how they secured their residency positions to the timing of rotations and ideal letters of recommendation.

According to Rona McIntyre in SGU's Alumni Relations Office, more than 200 students attended the event.

"It's very important for us to give back to SGU," said Dr. Andrew Persits, MD SGU '10, a first-year cardiology fellow at North Shore-LIJ in Manhasset, NY. "For many of us, SGU was the only school that gave us a chance to chase a lifelong dream. I felt proud standing up there as an alumnus that has been able to live out his dream."

## More than 800 Students/Grads Match in 2015

Match Day proved once again that St. George's University graduates continue to enter US medicine in large numbers. At this date, more than 800 have received first-year training spots in US residencies—many in their top choice. Most graduates were matched through the National Resident Matching Program® (NRMP), but many choose to sign into residencies outside of the Match.

Sean Maratto, MD SGU '15, matched with his first-choice residency—a diagnostic radiology position at Pennsylvania Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. He will first complete a preliminary year in surgery at Abington Memorial Hospital.

"When I found out I earned my number one choice, it felt as if all the hard work I put in for the last four years paid off," he said. "Medical school is an arduous task, but it makes the endpoint that much more gratifying."

Jonathan Polak, MD SGU '15, is looking forward to the next step in his career as an internal medicine resident at Vidant Medical Center, an affiliate of East Carolina University.

"Now that I'm finished with med school, I can honestly say that I've received the most training that I can get at the student level, and I feel ready for my residency program," he said.



Students flocked to the Photo Booth at the SGU Match Day Party in New York City on March 20.



Dr. Lesley Flynt with Dr. Laszlo Mechtler, President of the American Society of Neuroimaging, at the ASN 38th Annual Meeting in Arizona

## 2011 Graduate Wins Neuroimaging Award

The American Society of Neuroimaging (ASN) has recognized Lesley Flynt, MD SGU '11, for her outstanding research in brain mapping. Dr. Flynt was bestowed the prestigious Oldendorf Award, an honor named for medical pioneer and ASN founding member William Oldendorf. Dr. Flynt received the award at the organization's 38th Annual Meeting in Carefree, Arizona.

When asked how she felt when she learned she had won, she said, "I was really blown away. I didn't expect to win it."

The ASN acknowledged Dr. Flynt for her retrospective study on approximately 100 patients diagnosed with history of tremor, referred for brain imaging to differentiate between Essential Tremor (ET) and tremor due to a Parkinsonian Syndrome. The imaging agent DaTscan was used to visualize the integrity of the striatal dopaminergic neurons in their brains. Because those afflicted with Parkinson's do not produce as much dopamine as those who do not have the disease, Dr. Flynt could examine the patients' images and distinguish between Parkinson's and ET. She discovered that DaTscan would have changed the diagnosis for about three-quarters of suspected Parkinsonism patients.

*"Keep your eyes on the stars, and your feet on the ground."*

*– Theodore Roosevelt*

## Message from the AAMP Coordinator

Spring is here, and not a moment too soon for those who had to dig out of all that snow this winter. Here comes the sun, and I say, it's all right!

Another season that has come and gone—the match season, which is always an exciting time. To see all the different directions that our graduates are headed—both professionally and geographically—is always a wonder to us. SGU MDs truly go on to practice medicine and address health care concerns worldwide, whether it's in the United States, Canada, or elsewhere. We are so proud to have been a stop along the way. Best of luck to our students and graduates who are set to take the next step in their careers.

Many recently matched individuals took part in our second annual Match Tour, which made stops in nine cities in less than a month. For those interested in medicine,

our students and graduates are extremely valuable resources. We encourage all of you to join us at any number of events this spring and summer. Your participation is important not only for our sake but because your firsthand account of the journey through medical school is just what these future doctors need to hear. Please contact me at [bmills@sgu.edu](mailto:bmills@sgu.edu) or +1 (631) 665-8500 ext 9 1213 if you would like to help out. We would love to see you.

*– Betsy Mills*



## St. George's University Spring/Summer 2015 Events

The schedule for St. George's University's Spring/Summer 2015 webinars, information sessions, and Backstage at SGU events are in the works, and SGU graduates are important resources for prospective students. It's always being updated, so visit [sgu.edu/infosession](http://sgu.edu/infosession) for the complete calendar of events, and email [bmills@sgu.edu](mailto:bmills@sgu.edu) if you would like to help us attract the best and brightest students.

4/1 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania #  
4/1 Detroit, Michigan #  
4/9 Chicago, Illinois #  
4/9 Orlando, Florida #  
4/9 Boston, Massachusetts  
4/14 New York, New York #  
4/18 Irvine, California  
4/20 Houston, Texas #  
4/21 Fort Worth, Texas  
4/21 San Francisco, California #  
4/22 New Orleans, Louisiana  
4/24 San Diego, California #

6/22 San Juan, Puerto Rico  
7/7 Toronto, Ontario  
7/7 Tempe, Arizona  
7/9 Los Angeles, California  
7/20 Port St. Lucie, Florida  
7/23 Chicago, Illinois

### Coming Soon:

Baltimore, Maryland  
Long Island, New York  
London, England

# Match Tour

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## An Interview with the New SOMAA President

Bruce Bonanno, MD SGU '83, an emergency medicine physician at CentraState Medical Center in Freehold, New Jersey, was recently voted to serve as the President of the School of Medicine Alumni Association (SOMAA) beginning on July 1. We caught up with Dr. Bonanno to see what the future holds for the SOMAA.

**AAMP: Why did you decide to run for SOMAA President?**

**Bruce Bonanno:** I have strong feelings for the school. St. George's gave me a chance to live out my dream of becoming a doctor. I have had a great career and life, and it is time to give back to the school and the island of Grenada that provided it.

**AAMP: What do you hope to accomplish during your tenure?**

**BB:** I hope to provide a vehicle to those that feel like I do—those who want to give back to the school, the island, the people of Grenada, and the medical students. We had a very active Alumni Association years ago, and I hope to be able to do the things we did in the past. With the other elected officers—Glenn Brady, Rob Helman, and Matt Melamed, who

are as passionate about this as me—I believe we will be able to this. I hope to restart the annual CME conferences in Grenada, regional chapters around the states and the world, help with the medical care in Grenada, and acknowledge graduates and students who have done well.

**AAMP: Why is it important for the School of Medicine to have a strong Alumni Association?**

**BB:** Only with a strong association can we can accomplish all these goals I have set. The elected officers and I can't do it alone. We all need to help and give back to the institution that got us where we are, and to continue the tradition of us being one of the most recognized medical schools in the world.



Make Sure  
You're  
LinkedIn!

Are you LinkedIn? Follow SGU on our newly formed university page. It allows you to connect with your former classmates while also receiving news updates from True Blue and the UK. Also, update the education section of your profile, which makes it even easier to see what your colleagues are up to.