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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Medical Student Receives LeCoMASE Scholarship

HARRISBURG, Pa. — The Lehigh County Medical Auxiliary's Scholarship and Educational (LeCoMASE) fund of \$2,500 was awarded to Patrick J. Collins by The Foundation of the Pennsylvania Medical Society. Patrick currently resides in Allentown and is a fourth-year medical student at the University of South Florida College of Medicine. He is the son of J. John and Michele Collins of Orefield, Pa.

After countless experiences, Patrick concludes that his central drive to become an emergency physician is the gratifying feeling that he is making a difference. “It's a feeling I've experienced throughout my emergency medicine rotations this summer, in every procedure I've performed, successful resuscitation in which I've participated, and interventions I've made. The ability to replicate these feelings are what drives my pursuit of a career in emergency medicine. It provides opportunities to turn complaints into diagnoses, and intervene with a variety of treatments and procedures.”

Throughout his professional journey, Patrick has had the opportunity to experience a diverse range of specialty areas. He has worked in internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, psychiatry, as well as the operating room for surgery. Patrick goes on to say that although he is grateful for the experiences, none of them are more appealing to him than the setting of an emergency room. “My first exposure to emergency medicine came the year before I began medical school, when I worked as a scribe in the emergency department at Lehigh Valley Health Network in Allentown, Pa. It was there that I first experienced the excitement of the field. Upon entering medical school, I knew it was an environment I enjoyed.”

Through his medical training, and while participating in the SELECT program at the University of South Florida (which presents students with the opportunity to participate in clinical rotations within the Lehigh Valley Health Network in Allentown, Pa.), Patrick highlights one aspect that had a profound impact on him, and one that he intends to carry into his medical practicing in the future. “The SELECT program exposed me to the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator Profile, a personality assessment. My results matched my quiet and reserved personality.” Moreover, he

identifies how those personality traits benefit his relationship with patients. “Patients seem to enjoy my calming and pleasant demeanor and have commented on my ability to make them feel at ease in stressful situations. In my clinical experience, I’ve found it remarkable how much impact a smile and a few empathetic words can have; a lesson I won’t forget.” Patrick goes on to say that since emergency departments are ever changing and chaotic, adaptability and friendly demeanor make all the difference to patients.

While learning about his personality traits and tendencies, Patrick also learned to utilize evidence-based medicine and shared decision making skills. “I learned how to elicit patients’ values and collaborate with patients to make treatment decisions in the context of these values while incorporating the most up-to-date data available. I then practiced these skills in simulated patient experiences. The SELECT program has taught me techniques of effective leadership: how to handle conflict, hold crucial conversations, and the importance of situational awareness and emotional intelligence.”

In addition to the SELECT program, Patrick points out that his extracurriculars have benefited him over the years. “Executive board positions on student interest groups such as the SELECT Program’s Emergency Medicine Interest Group, USF’s Healthcare Improvement Group, the USF Chapter of the American Medical Association’s Medical Student Section and a colloquium on physician leadership presented opportunities to practice working in teams to effectively manage groups. All of these abilities, both inherent and learned, will serve me well as an emergency medicine physician, de facto leaders of multidisciplinary teams involving specialist physicians, midlevel providers, nurses, and other supporting staff.”

With all of his education and medical training, Patrick has a clear goal in mind for his medical career. He says, “I will remain committed to practicing patient-centered care and hope to continue to develop my leadership skills in a residency program that emphasizes training in these domains. I wish to build upon the foundational knowledge of healthcare systems I’ve gained in the SELECT program. Combining that training with my undergraduate education in economics, I aspire to one day practice clinically and work administratively to improve the delivery of care, regardless of whether that is in a single emergency department, healthcare network, or on a larger scale.”

This award is possible, thanks to contributions from the Lehigh County Medical Auxiliary’s Scholarship and Educational Fund, Inc. (LeCoMASE) who established this fund within the Foundation to assist Lehigh County residents with the cost of attending medical school. LeCoMASE, a non-profit corporation based in Allentown, Pa., was formed in the late 1960s to help qualified members of the community meet the cost of earning a medical or nursing degree.

The Foundation, a nonprofit affiliate of the Pennsylvania Medical Society, sustains the future of medicine in Pennsylvania by providing programs that support medical education, physician health and excellence in practice. It has helped finance medical education for more than 63 years.

For more information about this scholarship, or other scholarship opportunities, please visit www.foundationpamedsoc.org. For questions, contact the Foundation’s Student Financial Services Director, Deborah Monko at (717) 558-7854.