OUR NEW CURRICULUM HAS BEEN EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL. Our modern educational space, with classrooms specifically designed to incorporate new technologies into team-based learning, provides the ideal environment for the 18 month science curriculum that is followed by a year in required clinical clerkships. Each student then selects a “major” area of emphasis under the tutelage of a faculty mentor. Throughout the experience, each student is guided by an advisory dean, a senior faculty member who helps the student plan her or his personalized educational experience. In the clinical arena, students help in the care of vulnerable populations with no other healthcare options and patients who could choose to have their care anywhere in the world.

Our students see the most basic of medical problems, as well as the most complex of quaternary care. Our students also have a remarkable range of options to pursue research, ranging from the most fundamental to translational and clinical research, as well as to participate in a wide range of global educational experiences. Our extracurricular activities, centered around the Bard Hall residence, include Bard Hall Players theater productions and monthly Musical Monday classical performances, Rugby Club and other athletic programs, Lang Youth teaching and mentoring program for local adolescents, International Health Organization and many more community service, advocacy and specialty interest programs.

This “informal curriculum” provides much of the “glue” that brings such life-long camaraderie to the P&S experience.

Top medical school candidates will always have a wide range of potential options for obtaining their medical education. Here at P&S, we take great pride in providing our students with educational opportunities that will prepare them to fulfill all of their professional aspirations while simultaneously participating in a wide variety of activities that will ensure their personal growth.

We encourage you to explore these unique opportunities at P&S as you consider your future in medicine.
Leading the way for almost 250 years

1917  P&S admits women for the first time. Notable women pioneers at P&S include Hattie Alexander, Virginia Apgar, Virginia Frantz, and Dorothy Andersen.  

1928  Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, the world’s first medical center to combine complete facilities for patient care, medical education and research in a single complex, is dedicated in Washington Heights.  

1956  P&S researchers André Cournand and Dickinson Richards receive the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for work in cardiac catheterization.  

1984  Drs. Keith Reemtsma and Eric Rose of the P&S Department of Surgery perform first successful heart transplant in a child.  

1997  Merger of New York Hospital with Presbyterian Hospital to form NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, one hospital affiliated with two Ivy League schools, Columbia University College of P&S and Weill Cornell Medical College.  

2000  P&S Professor Eric Kandel wins the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his work on the molecular basis of memory.  

2004  P&S Professor Richard Axel is awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his work in determining the genes that govern the sense of smell.  

2009  NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital is ranked #1 in NYC Metro Area and #6 in the nation in US News’ America’s Best Hospitals.  

2016  The Roy and Diana Vagelos Education Center opens.

Columbia University began as King’s College, which in 1770 became the first in the North American Colonies to confer the degree of Doctor of Medicine.
STUDENTS AT P&S HAIL FROM THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES and the world. The entering class of 2015 represented 69 colleges, and came from 27 states, Canada, China and the United Kingdom. They ranged in age from 22-36 years; 49 percent were female; and 24 percent were under-represented minorities.

At the beginning of the first year, students at the Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons participate in the Arnold P. Gold Foundation White Coat Ceremony, an annual rite of passage for doctors-to-be to pledge the Hippocratic Oath in commitment to the compassionate practice of medicine. This event was initiated at P&S in 1993 and since has become tradition at more than 90% of schools of medicine and osteopathy throughout the US, at Israel’s four medical schools, and in other countries.

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A New Curriculum

THE CURRICULUM IS A FUNDAMENTAL REORGANIZATION of the way we teach both basic science and clinical medicine. It combines the principles of basic science, professionalism, and clinical medicine throughout the four-year program in a way that encourages teamwork and innovation. And with increased flexibility in the post-clinical period, students have the opportunity to explore more fully an area of special interest, culminating in a scholarly project.

### FUNDAMENTALS
- Opportunities for students to teach and learn collaboratively
- Basic sciences taught with an orientation towards clinical reasoning and evidence-based medicine
- Systems-based exploration of health and disease, integrated with biological, psychosocial and population-based concepts
- Anatomy with balanced use of dissection, pro-sections, and imaging
- Longitudinal, patient-focused development of clinical and diagnostic skills

### MAJOR CLINICAL YEAR
- Intersessions between blocks to explore advanced topics and develop plan for 4th year scholarly project
- United States Medical Licensing Exam Part 1 (USMLE) taken after Major Clinical Year

### ELECTIVES & SCHOLARLY PROJECTS
- Expanded to 14 months
- Flexible 4th year schedule to accommodate scholarly project and electives
- Scholarly Project: students, paired with mentors, delve deeply into area of interest in Basic Science, Clinical Research, Global Health, Medical Education, Narrative and Social Research, Community Health
- Increased flexibility to explore options for career specialty

### COLUMBIA-BASSETT TRACK
- Application pre-entry to medical school
- Applicants interview at P&S and Bassett Hospital, Cooperstown, NY
- 18-month basic science curriculum at P&S
- Clinical years at Bassett Hospital
- Allows learning medicine in a rural environment and exposure to health care management

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**Curriculum Key**

- **MM** - Molecular Mechanisms & Disease
- **BHD** - The Body: In Health & In Disease
- **FCM** - Foundations of Clinical Medicine
- **BG** - Biomedical Information
- **E&O** - Electives & Scholarly Projects
- **FCM Prep** - FCM Integration, SLIM, Biomedical Informatics
- **D&I** - Differentiation & Integration
- **MCY** - Major Clinical Year
- **USMLE** - United States Medical Licensing Exam
- **SLIM** - Systems Leadership Integration Management
- **BPH** - Basic Pathophysiology
- **BC** - Basic Clinical Skills
- **B&I** - Basic & Intermediate
- **C&I** - Clinical & Intermediate
- **C&S** - Clinical & Advanced
- **PSY M** - Psychiatric Medicine
- **Tutorials**

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**Timeline**

|   | AUG | SEPT | OCT | NOV | DEC | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUNE | JULY | AUG | SEPT | OCT | NOV | DEC | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY |
|---|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 16 MONTHS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 MONTHS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 MONTHS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
P&S provides a broad array of formal and informal support structures that assist students’ transition into and progression through medical school. Some of the formal programs include:

**CENTER FOR STUDENT WELLNESS:** Applying Public Health Approaches to Build a Healthy Campus. The Center was founded on the belief that even the most successful and dedicated students occasionally can use guidance and support. P&S students may seek out assistance for any concern, big or small. The Center’s staff assists students to develop individualized action plans to address concerns or problems. The program is designed to reduce stress; develop and increase coping skills; provide support; and advocate for positive social support systems on campus.

**ADVISORY DEAN PROGRAM:** Structured Academic, Career, and Personal Support. Regularly scheduled group and individual meetings with an Advisory Dean provide opportunities for students to gather to discuss the unique issues that arise during medical school, such as adjusting to the curricular requirements of each year, developing mentoring relationships, and addressing residency and career plans.

**OTHER SUPPORTS INCLUDE:** Student Success Network, which offers services to help make first-year students’ medical school adjustment to coursework a smooth one by promoting a sense of teamwork through regular small-group review sessions, facilitated by second-year and senior students.

Tutors are also available free of charge. In the Big Sibs program, each incoming first-year student is matched with a second-year student who provides initial social, academic and personal guidance. The Home Away from Home Program, sponsored by the Alumni Association, matches first-year medical students with P&S alumni in the New York City area, fostering a smooth transition into P&S. During the residency interview process, the students are given the opportunity to be hosted by alumni located near their interview site by the Alumni Hosting Program.

“Every step of the way, P&S has helped me find my path. The goal here is to produce well-rounded people, not just great physicians, and that is reflected in their immense support systems. Low stress and high reward are the key to success here!”

-Hayley Born, P&S 2015
The practice of medicine is a convergence of science, research and technology, which are elevated, transformed, and given relevance by physicians through compassion, listening, and a desire to reduce suffering and promote health. The goal of P&S is to produce the next generation of leaders in medical care, teaching and research with an emphasis on the qualities of both medical and scientific training. This will enable our graduates to be innovative as researchers and to play key roles in the translation of scientific findings to clinical research. There are ample opportunities at P&S to conduct research with a faculty mentor or through fellowships with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and other prestigious research programs. All students participate in a 4 month-long scholarly project. Many students earn an additional degree, such as an M.P.H., M.B.A., Ph.D. or M.S. in biomedical engineering.

Many funded global health opportunities—locally and abroad—are available to P&S students through elective courses (Introduction to Global Health; Research Methods in Global Health; Summer Research and Independent Study in Global Health); a new, exciting MD-MS dual degree program with a global health focus (completed in four or five years); global health or population health scholarly projects; first summer internships; and senior electives.

P&S has formal affiliations with 27 medical schools in 19 countries, with programs with UNPHU in Santo Domingo, D.R., and the Lesotho School of Medicine. The IFAP Global Health Program started its flagship program in La Romana, Dominican Republic, in 1999 but now sends students to a dozen international settings and runs the Digame summer Spanish language and cultural immersion program, the Ni Hao summer Chinese language and cultural immersion program, and Digame Bienvenidos, an orientation program for incoming P&S students to introduce them to the Dominican community of Washington Heights. Other great options for global health placements are available through the Medical School for International Health (Ben Gurion University), the ICAP Program at Mailman School of Public Health, and the Earth Institute’s Millennium Village Project.
THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE STUDENT ACTIVITIES ORGANIZATION IN AMERICAN MEDICAL EDUCATION.

The P&S Club was founded by Nobel Peace Laureate John Mott in 1894. The P&S Club sponsors over 70 extracurricular groups, adding substantial depth to a program otherwise devoted to scientific and clinical disciplines.

“The P&S Club

“Doctors must relate well to other people. That is why P&S looks for a cultural breadth that goes beyond medicine. Having other interests makes medical students better doctors.”

- Dr. Stephen Nicholas
Associate Dean for Admissions
MORE THAN 1,300 STUDENTS RESIDE IN MEDICAL CENTER ACCOMMODATIONS, a practical and cost-effective way to live in Manhattan. Students who live on campus have the opportunity to take advantage of the resources that Columbia University, Washington Heights, and New York City have to offer.
P&S STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED
to learn about the culture, history, politics, resources and needs of the vibrant communities of Washington Heights and Harlem by visiting historical sites and major institutions, getting acquainted with community members, dining and enjoying night life in the neighborhood, and participating in community cultural events. Both neighborhoods have undergone economic revitalization, resulting in a safe and clean urban environment with a rich cultural fabric that will enhance life at P&S.

“At a newcomer to New York City, I can’t imagine living anywhere except Washington Heights. Its cultural diversity has enriched my medical education immensely and taught me the value of mutual respect in medicine.”

-David Chapel ’15
“THE MATCH” REFERENCES THE DAY IN MARCH when fourth-year students learn which residency training program they’ll be attending. In 2016, 47 percent of graduates matched at programs in New York State (mostly New York City, including 26.7 percent who matched at Columbia for all or part of their postgraduate training).

GRADUATION FROM P&S OCCURS IN MAY, when the Hippocratic Oath is again recited. This brings to closure the journey that began during the first-year White Coat Ceremony and ritualizes the launch of each graduate’s new career in medicine. Graduating students, their children, family members, friends, and faculty gather together to award diplomas and give special recognition to students and outstanding teachers. A celebratory reception follows the graduation ceremony.