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NEWS RELEASE

**'CALM, COOL, COLLECTED' COLLEGE SENIORS
HEADED TO UC COLLEGE OF MEDICINE**

DAYTON, Ohio — It's nail-biting time for most college seniors. While some have already accepted their perfect first career position, others are hustling for the next promising job interview or graduate school lead.

A group of 21 seniors from the University of Dayton, Xavier University, John Carroll University, Miami University and the University of Cincinnati are free of those worries. They have already been accepted into the UC College of Medicine, and they have known their fate since their college careers began four years ago.

As dual-admission students, they were accepted into college and medical school at the same time. The students due to graduate this spring were the first to be admitted with dual-admission status.

"I loved Dayton the first time I came to visit, and I had a feeling this was the place for me," said Annie Lintzenich, a 21-year-old pre-med major from Indianapolis. "But my acceptance into the dual-admission program was what made the decision final. It was just too good of an opportunity to pass up."

At UD, the program is called JAMS, for joint admission to medical school.

"The JAMS students have seats in a top-notch medical school that many are foaming at the mouth to get into," said John Erdei, associate professor of physics and director of the joint-admission program. "For the UC College of Medicine, they're getting students who have solid

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academic records that include substantial capabilities in the humanities, hands-on scientific experience and a demonstrated commitment to working with others in hospitals, clinics, hospice settings and retirement communities, for example.”

The program is designed to encourage students to explore classes outside the scientific realm and to take advantage of opportunities to study abroad and perform hands-on research. The goal is to develop broadly educated students who are informed about the profession and who are able to provide the compassionate care that finds roots in the spirit and personal values of the caregiver.

The rigorous selection process limits each university to 10 dual-admission students per year. Students are required to maintain a 3.45 grade point average and achieve specific minimum scores on the medical college admission test to take advantage of the guaranteed seat at UC College of Medicine.

Each year brings a different experience to draw together the students at the five partner schools and let them get acquainted with medical school faculty. A freshman retreat at Shawnee State Park allows them to get to know one another, and a weekend orientation at UCCOM is offered sophomore year. At the end of junior year, the students attend a mini-medical school event at UC. Seniors in the program, as well as other students on campus who are interested in applying for medical school, can take part in a low-cost interactive teleconference to prepare for the MCAT.

“We want the students to take those first three years of college to get as much out of the undergraduate experience as they can and to explore subjects outside medicine,” said Jennifer Rosichan, director of the dual-admission program at UC College of Medicine. “A typical pre-med student will spend those three years trying to make their resumes look attractive to medical schools, so they’re obsessing over every single test score and grade and volunteer activity. The JAMS students don’t worry about impressing because they are already accepted.

“That means we get a calm, cool, collected, well-adjusted, mature 22-year-old who has an education that is very solid in the sciences and enriched by courses that will foster their

natural motivation to help others," Rosichan said.

The program is appealing to high school seniors who have an aptitude for science and a desire to interact with people, Erdei said.

"I decided on a medical career when I was a senior in high school," said Michelle Mueller, a 21-year-old biology major from Dayton. "Before that I wanted to be a music teacher or maybe a missionary. Everything dealing with blood gave me nausea. Then I babysat for a group of children with heart problems. I talked to one girl especially. She told me how her heart hurt sometimes and that she was scared to go to the doctor's office. The whole thing was so touching that I knew that I needed to be a doctor. Maybe I could calm someone's fear or take away the pain."

She's thinking of specializing in gastroenterology and perhaps putting her skills to use as a medical missionary. "Now 'blood and guts' don't make me sick. It is strange how a person's attitude and life can change."

Rob Brower, a 21-year-old biochemistry major from Englewood and possible future surgeon, knew even earlier. "I decided on a career in medicine early in my high school education," he said. "The mechanics and mechanisms of the human body fascinated me. I think that, for me, a medical career is the best way to make the world a better place."

Each of the JAMS students at UD expressed some trepidation at the demanding schedule of a medical student, but it's tempered by enthusiasm.

"I get excited when I think about my future in medical school and my future as a doctor," said Lintzenich. "Whenever I spend any time in the clinical setting, I anticipate all of the amazing and trying experiences that lie ahead of me. Naturally I'm terrified of the exams and long hours, but I think it will be rewarding because I will be doing what I love."

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