

**THE BOARD OF MEDICAL STUDENT LOANS  
MEETING AGENDA  
MARCH 25, 2025**

**Virtual link via Microsoft Teams**

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting>

Meeting ID: 261 858 690 735

Passcode: Kp7Ab64e

**6:00p.m. Call to order**

**Approval of Minutes from the Meeting of December 26, 2024**

Discussion/Action

**Financial Review of Appropriations**

Discussion

The State of Arizona has given the Board \$4 million in General Fund appropriations to make loans to medical students who are committed to practicing **Primary Care** in needed areas of the state. After approved primary care loans are distributed to current recipients for Academic Years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025, **remaining appropriations for primary care loans are estimated at \$2,366,167.**

The State has given the Board an additional \$2 million in Medical Marijuana Fund appropriations to make loans to medical students who are committed to practicing **Psychiatry** in needed areas of the state. After approved psychiatry loans are distributed to current recipients for Academic Years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025, **remaining appropriations for psychiatry loans are estimated at \$1,448,492.**

**Review and Selection of New Applicants to the 2024-2025 Arizona Medical Student Loan Program**

Discussion/Action

Thirteen medical students initially applied to the Arizona Medical Student Loan Program for 2024-2025. When invited to interview for the program, three applicants withdrew from the process, and one did not respond. **Nine applicants were interviewed—four are interested in Primary Care, four are interested in Psychiatry, and one is interested in both.**

**Joshua Hudson is a first-year medical student** who was born and is tied to Arizona with a strong family. A childhood living in a rural community and experience working on the Navajo Reservation have guided his dedication to the underserved as a physician in **Family Practice, Internal Medicine, or Medicine/Peds.**

**Cassandra Rau is a third-year medical student** with strong ties to Arizona. Growing up in a household with a mother who was a nurse introduced Cassandra to patient stories and medical vocabulary from an early age. As a medical scribe, observing the leadership and role of a physician in medical care has resulted in a strong interest in the fields of **Family Practice, Internal Medicine and OBGYN.**

**Albiya Thomas is a second-year medical student** from Mesa and graduated from the University of Arizona. Albiya grew up in India, and after moving to the United States in 2006 was inspired by the healthcare system which was a stark contrast from what she knew in rural Kerala. She has strong ties

to Arizona and is dedicated to practicing selfless medical care in the fields of **Pediatrics, Internal Medicine, Medicine/Peds, or OBGYN.**

**Chrissa Wilcox is a second-year medical student** who graduated from high school in Sierra Vista while her father was stationed at Fort Huachuca. Chrissa's interest in **Family Medicine** comes from a desire to treat patients from a wider-scope and build long-term doctor-patient relationships.

**Gurkaran Chotalla is a first-year medical student** and Arizona native. Gurkaran's path began on the periphery of medicine in business and management closed in on the heart of medicine. This created a sharp view of healthcare from the outside in, resulting in a dedication to caring for underserved patients in **Psychiatry.**

**Reggie Henderson is a first-year medical student** who grew up in Indiana and has lived in Arizona since 2016. Reggie has a strong background in Psychology and Behavioral Health and is dedicated to his goal of practicing medicine in **Psychiatry.**

**Sarah Miller is a fourth-year medical student.** A career which began as a nurse in an emergency room introduced Sarah to the compassionate care needed for those suffering in mental health. As a physician in **Psychiatry,** Sarah will advocate for the Arizona community's underserved.

**Aryana Rasti is a second-year medical student with strong family roots in Arizona.** As a child of Iranian immigrants, Aryana developed an early understanding of the cultural and social differences in mental health perceptions. Her interest in medicine and involvement with the American Psychiatric Association has fueled her desire to become a physician in **Psychiatry** to care for patients in mental health and advocate for more resources in underserved communities.

**Rachel Morris is a first-year medical student** and life-long resident of Arizona. Studies in public health has led Rachel to a goal of practicing as a physician in **Family Medicine, Medicine/Peds, OBGYN or Psychiatry** to reduce disparities of care and focus on community health care.

## **Review of Administrative Support Options**

Discussion/Action

From the Board's inception, the University of Arizona College of Medicine-Tucson (UACOM-T) has provided for the administration of the Arizona Medical Student Loan Program. Since this time, the number of medical schools in the State has increased to six. In past meetings, the Board has discussed alternatives and may consider pursuing legislative changes to accommodate the growing administrative needs of the Program.

## **Other items from Board Members or Audience**

Discussion Only

## **Adjournment**

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03 (A) (2) and (A) (3), the Board may vote to go into Executive Session, which will not be open to the public, for legal advice concerning any item on the agenda or to review, discuss and consider records exempt from public inspection, including the receipt and discussion of information or testimony that is specifically required to be maintained as confidential by state or federal law.