

To the esteemed members of AMOPS,

Greetings, my name is Mike Swift, 2Lt; OMS III of Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine and Vice President of SAMOPS, the student division of AMOPS. As many of you know, SAMOPS was officially formed last year in an attempt to serve the military medical student constituency. Thus far, we have increased growth in membership, improved communication amongst the students, and shared learned knowledge of the military profession. One of our newest enterprises is a mentorship program designed to assist the military medical student as they progress through their four years of medical education.

The primary purpose of the mentorship program is to form lasting relationships between physicians and military osteopathic students. At times, it is very difficult as military students participating in the HPSP program to find answers to questions about rotations, residencies, and how to set up active duty training for maximum effect, etc. There are hundreds of books written about 'how to put together the most effective CV,' 'how to make the most out of your sub-I,' 'how to do a DO/PhD or MD/PhD program,' etc. and any other number of topics that fall more often under civilian-based concerns. But there are very few sources on how to succeed when your medical focus is in conjunction with the military. This heavily demonstrates the vital importance of being able to ask those who've gone before us of their experiences with the HPSP program; what they found worked and what didn't – what advice may be given on the very topics above of ADTs and rotations, etc. The HPSP handbook covers the basics of the program but little else. As a personal example, I did my OBLC the summer before med school so as to have my first summer free to participate in EM rotation experiences. I had found in the handbook that if OBLC was accomplished prior to medical school then allowance would be made for HPSP students to do an NADT. By the program definition, I was ready to go that first summer – only I had no idea where to go. This part was certainly not covered. I contacted my own mentor, spoke with her of my plans and asked for her advice. She was able to give me a name, contact number, and a character reference on my behalf for the rotation. I participated in the rotation and had an amazing experience; one I would not have begun to imagine, and certainly would not have been able to discover without my mentor's assistance. This is just one example of the incredible value a mentor can be to the progression of the student through their military medical education in the HPSP program.

The setup is in progress but the idea is simple enough in form. We are working on our own student website with a link off of the main AMOPS website. The website will provide a listing of interested mentors (you), with a brief bio and contact info. The bio would include a brief synopsis of your route through your medical education, where you did your residency, and why you decided on that specialty, where you are now in your current practice, and maybe a bit of personal information (married, children, amount deployed, etc.). This latter part is to assist the upcoming students in the realization of life in the military after medical school and residency and need not be anything more personal than you feel comfortable in sharing. The students will have the option to view the bios and read about your past experiences to see if there are mutual interests. They can then contact you and ask if you'd be willing to take them on as mentee. Afterwards, correspondence will depend upon your comfort level. You may also take as many as you feel you have time for.

I do realize that some of the recipients of this letter will most likely have been out of medical school and/or residency for some time. I urge you not to let this fact dissuade you as any of our student members would gladly welcome any advice at whatever level. Alongside your own hopeful interest; I will also be sending a similar request to our own 2010 and 2011 students who will have recently graduated and will be currently in internship/residency.

Sirs and Madams, thank you for your time and hopeful interest in our program. I urge you to thoroughly consider participating. It would not be a great burden of time on your part as medical practitioners but would be an invaluable asset on our part as students! As I write this to you, you will probably be receiving it sometime in the month of April 2011. **My goal is to have this program up and running by the end of July** so that the incoming students of class 2014 and returning students of all classes before can take full advantage of this program at the beginning of their new academic years. Any interest you may have in participating with SAMOPS would always be very welcome and I urge you please to consider participating and to write back as early as possible. Your experiences, advice, and willingness to get involved will have a tremendous impact in the lives of our student members. Thank you.

Information needed;

- **Name, rank, medical specialty**
- **Contact information (email, phone number if desired)**
- **Current location**
- **Bios**
 - **Where you did your residency**
 - **Where you did your fellowship**
 - **Military carrier and accompanying points of interest**
 - **Personal info (whatever comfortable in providing)**
 - **Any other points of interest you wish to include that you feel pertinent to the program**

Very respectfully,

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