Clinical Equipment Letter

July 28, 2006

Welcome, Class of 2010!

I am writing to you in my capacity as coordinator of the first year clinical skills training. You will start your training in physical examination skills in the first year, which means that you will need your diagnostic equipment right away. Your clinical experiences will consist of monthly workshops teaching you various parts of the physical examination (usually correlated with your study of anatomy) and monthly clinical preceptor visits where you will be assigned to a practicing primary care physician (Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics) who will introduce you to patient care and help you practice your skills interviewing and examining patients.

As part the Introduction to Human Biology and Disease Course (Orientation week), I will meet with you to go over the diagnostic equipment you will need for the physical examination portion of the curriculum. The bookstore has ordered all the equipment you will need, and you may purchase it when you arrive. You will need to have this equipment by the week of August 14, as that is when your first clinical skills session is scheduled. As a minimum, you will need to purchase a stethoscope, a phymomanometer (blood pressure cuff), an oto-ophthalmoscope, a reflex hammer, and two tuning forks (one suitable for checking hearing, another for checking vibration sense). It is also a good idea to have a penlight as well although you can often use the otoscope light for this purpose.

At our session, I will answer any questions you may have about buying equipment. You will also have the opportunity of looking at and trying out some of the equipment for yourself. A representative from the student store will also be present to answer questions. As you will be expected to have your own equipment and practice with it on your own, you MUST own all this equipment by August 14.

In addition to discussing your equipment needs, you will also sign up for your preceptorship sites. We will be asking you about your access to a car (FYI-If you are new to Los Angeles, we do a LOT of driving here-NOTHING is close by), what languages you speak fluently enough to interview a patient, your interests within medicine, and what areas of the city you would be willing to be assigned to. Some of you will be living in outlying suburbs or may have parents or relatives who do, so you might want to be assigned near them. I must emphasize that it will not be possible to give you your first choice in all cases, but we would prefer to know something about you in order to make the best possible match.

I look forward to meeting all of you!!

Sincerely,

Robert Oye MD