It Couldn't Be Done

by Edgar A. Guest

Somebody said that it couldn't be done,
But he with a chuckle replied
That "maybe it couldn't," but he would be one
Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.
So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin
On his face. If he worried he hid it.
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it.
Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you'll never do that;
At least no one ever has done it";
But he took off his coat and he took off his hat,
And the first thing we knew he'd begun it.
With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,
Without any doubting or quiddit,
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,
There are thousands to prophesy failure;
There are thousands to point out to you one by one,
The dangers that wait to assail you.
But just buckle in with a bit of a grin,
Just take off your coat and go to it;
Just start to sing as you tackle the thing
That "cannot be done," and you'll do it.

Preparations are in full swing for the arrival of our 2014 SMDEP scholars. As alumni, please share your experiences here at the University of Louisville with others who may be interested in becoming a physician or dentist in the future. Applications will be available at www.smdep.org on November 1, 2014 through March 1, 2015.
During my undergraduate studies, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in the SMDEP at Howard University in 2008. SMDEP helped to further spark my interest in dentistry. The program helped me to improve my focus on my studies to achieve my goals. I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the SMDEP and will encourage others with interest in the medicine or dentistry to participate in the program. Following graduation from the University of Louisville I will be attending a Pediatric Dental Residency in Tampa, FL.

Harrison Black, D.M.D., SMDEP 2008, Pediatric Dentistry, Tampa, FL.

Vandra Harris, M.D.
SMDEP 2008
Johns Hopkins Hospital, Otolaryngology

My SMDEP experience drastically altered my life. From interacting with so many bright students I left motivated. I had an interest in medicine but I had no practical knowledge of the journey to being a physician. When I left the program that summer I was more intrigued by medicine because I now had a realistic view of what medical school entails and not just an idealized conception. I left knowing what I wanted out of life and in Mrs. Joshua and the program staff, I now had people willing to help me achieve my dream. Now that I am completing medical school I am extremely grateful for the role SMDEP has played in my life. I recommend the program to any young aspiring physician. Teamwork truly does make the dream work!

Takudzwa Mrorombindo, M.D.
SMDEP 2008
University of Louisville, Internal Medicine

Idona Goode, M.D.
SMDEP 2008
Eastern Virginia Medical School, Emergency Medicine

I participated in Summer Medical and Dental Program (SMDEP) at Howard University in 2008. SMDEP helped to further spark my interest in dentistry. The program helped me to improve my focus on my studies to achieve my goals. I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the SMDEP and will encourage others with interest in the medicine or dentistry to participate in the program. Following graduation from the University of Louisville I will be attending a Pediatric Dental Residency in Tampa, FL.

Harrison Black, D.M.D., SMDEP 2008, Pediatric Dentistry, Tampa, FL.

Attending SMDEP at the University of Louisville School of Medicine was one of the best career decisions that I have ever made. My academic performance there gave me confidence that I could handle medical school curriculum and solidified my decision to apply for medical school. There I also gained a diverse group of friends that I still hold dear today, and some of which that have become my classmates as my experience during SMDEP was so rewarding that I decided to return to the University of Louisville School of Medicine to complete my medical education. As I graduate this year I know that my career may not have turned out as well as it has had I not attended SMDEP and I encourage anyone interested in a career in medicine to do so as well.

Vandra Harris, M.D.
SMDEP 2008
Johns Hopkins Hospital, Otolaryngology

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Harrison Black, D.M.D., SMDEP 2008, Pediatric Dentistry, Tampa, FL.
I’ve had a wonderful experience in medical school. UofL was the perfect choice for me. In fact, SMDEP led me to UofL. I was a SMDEP scholar at Duke, and when I applied to medical school, one of my strategies was to apply to schools that had an SMDEP program because I knew they would be able to meet my needs as a minority student. My assumptions were true! I’ve enjoyed 4 years of enrichment, support, learning, and professional development. My classmate and also former Duke SMDEP scholar and I got to send a short video back to the incoming scholars at Duke last year. I’m always happy to help others climb the ladder to success, as so many others have done for me.

Cyrita Taylor, M.D.
SMDEP 2008
Indiana University, OB/GYN

SMDEP impacted my desire to become a dentist as it exposed me to what I would encounter while in dental school. I also loved that it actually gave me a glimpse of what studying in school would be like and I knew that I could handle it. The mentors also inspired me as well and seeing how much fun they were having while in school made me want to apply to dental school that much more. It was a great program and I would recommend it to anybody who is interested in medical or dental school!

Vinita Patel, D.M.D.
SMDEP 2007
Associate Dentist
Charlotte, NC

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Cyrita Taylor, M.D.
SMDEP 2008
Indiana University, OB/GYN

SMDEP played a pivotal role in my decision to become a physician. The various rotations that I participated in at Duke University during the program helped to solidify my interest in medicine. Rotations such as emergency medicine and internal medicine helped to begin my journey to a career in medicine. In addition to this, I forged many lifetime bonds with other participants from all over the country in the program. I continue to stay in contact with many of my fellow participants and many of them have completed their medical degrees. I consider it a pure honor that I participated in such an influential program and I hope that this program continues to be the stepping stone for future underrepresented physicians.

Randy Hines II, M.D.
SMDEP 2004
Atlanta Medical Center, Family Medicine

I enjoyed becoming acquainted with the health science campus prior to becoming a student. It was nice seeing familiar faces from SMDEP at our dental school orientation. This made the transition into professional school more comfortable.

Laura Hayman, D.M.D., SMDEP 2007, General Practice, Louisville, KY

Laura Hayman, D.M.D., SMDEP 2007, General Practice, Louisville, KY
Career Spotlight: Dental Hygiene

What is a dental hygienist?
A registered dental hygienist (RDH) is a licensed dental professional who specializes in preventive oral health, typically focusing on techniques in oral hygiene. Dental hygienists provide three types of services to their patients. The first of these is preventive services to promote and maintain good oral health. The second is educational services to help patients develop behaviors that promote better oral health and help them understand the importance of practicing these behaviors. The third type of service provided is therapeutic services which are treatments meant to stop disease and maintain healthy tissues in the mouth. Local dental regulations determine the scope of practice of dental hygienists. In most jurisdictions, hygienists work for a dentist, and some are licensed to administer local anesthesia. Common procedures performed by hygienists include cleanings known as prophylaxis, scaling and root planing for patients with periodontal disease, taking of prescribed radio graphs, dental sealants, administration of fluoride, and providing instructions for proper oral hygiene and care.

Education and Training
Dental hygienists in the United States must be graduates from a dental hygiene program, with either an associate degree (most common), a certificate, a bachelor's degree or a master's degree from a dental hygienist school that is accredited by the American Dental Association (ADA). All dental hygienists in the United States must be licensed by the state in which they practice, after completing a minimum of two years of school and passing a written board as well as a clinical board exam. State requirements vary by state, and are controlled by state dental boards. Dental hygienists school programs usually require both general education courses and courses specific to the field of dental hygiene. General education courses important to dental hygiene degrees include college level algebra, biology, and chemistry. Courses specific to dental hygiene may include anatomy, oral anatomy, materials science, pharmacology, radiography, periodontology, nutrition, and clinical skills.
A Bachelor's of Science in Dental Hygiene is typically a four-year program. Students entering a bachelor's degree program are required to have a high school diploma or equivalent, but many dental hygienists with an associate's degree or certification enter the bachelor's degree programs to expand their clinical expertise and help advance their careers. Graduate degrees in the field of dental hygiene are typically two-year programs and are completed after the bachelor's degree. Common graduate courses in dental hygiene include Healthcare Management, Lab Instruction, and Clinical Instruction.
After completing one of the more than 200 accredited dental hygiene programs in the United States, dental hygienists must be licensed in the state in which they work. Licensure requirements for becoming a Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH) vary from state to state, but most require a two-year degree, a written examination, and a clinical examination. The National Board Dental Hygiene Examination is intended to fulfill the written examination requirements. The clinical examination is typically administered by the state licensing board. In addition, the American Dental Hygienists’ Association has defined a more advanced level of dental hygiene, the Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner otherwise known as a dental therapist.

Sources: http://www.ada.org/sections/educationAndCareers/pdfs/hygienist_fact.pdf
http://explorehealthcareers.org/en/Career/2/Dental_Hygienist
Introducing the 2014 SMDEP Alumni Graduates of the Schools of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Louisville

Tommie Berry, M.D.
Physical and Rehab Medicine
Howard University Hospital
Washington, DC

Marie Dennison, M.D.
Family/Rural Medicine
University of Kentucky Medical Center
Lexington, KY

Idona Goode, M.D.
Emergency Medicine
Eastern Virginia Medical School
Norfolk, VA

Cyrita Taylor, M.D.
OB/GYN
Indiana University School of Medicine
Indianapolis, IN

Vandra Harris, M.D.
Otolaryngology
Johns Hopkins Hospital
Baltimore, MD

Emily Hayman, M.D.
Radiology
Northwestern McGaw Memorial Hospital
Chicago, IL

Seth Haywood, M.D.
Physical and Rehab Medicine
University of Louisville
Louisville, KY

Randy Hines, M.D.
Family Medicine
Atlanta Medical Center
Atlanta, GA

Takudzwa Mkorombindo, M.D.
Internal Medicine
University of Louisville
Louisville, KY

Daniel Ontenient, M.D.
Internal Medicine
University of Alabama Medical Center
Birmingham, AL

Harrison Black, D.M.D
Pediatric Dentistry
Tampa, FL

Darlene Desinor, D.M.D.
Associate Dentist

Laura Hayman, D.M.D.
General Practice
Louisville, KY

Vinita Patel, D.M.D.
Associate Dentist
Charlotte, NC

Melba Ross, D.M.D.
Associate Dentist
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

Chelsea Bond, R.D.H.
Registered Dental Hygienist

Congratulations!