Welcome Week 2019
[micro]SEMINARS

Planning for Medical School
Joel Schechter
Professor Emeritus, Keck School of Medicine

Abstract
It is currently extremely difficult to gain entrance to medical schools. The applicant pool far exceeds the number of students who gain acceptance to medical schools. To a large degree this is a result of undergraduate students not having a clear understanding of how to approach their undergraduate studies, and extracurricular activities. The proposed micro-seminar will engage students in an active dialogue and will describe in detail: a) how to plan their studies during the 4 years at USC, b) how and why to keep a networking journal, c) courses and skills that would be good to add to their backgrounds in addition to the science courses, d) the types of extracurricular activities that can benefit their education, growth and development, as well as helping to make them more attractive applicants for medical school, and e) how to set realistic goals that help enrich the undergraduate years as well as to make each of them a top rank candidate for medical school. Plus additional topics to be added.

Faculty Biography
Dr. Joel E. Schechter is recognized with a USC Faculty Lifetime Achievement Award for his commitment to medical education and to students at all levels. He received an MA in Medical Illustration from Johns Hopkins University, and a PhD in Anatomy from UCLA. He then spent 49 years on the faculty of the Keck School of Medicine, where he is a beloved teacher, and a champion of students. Dr. Schechter teaches microanatomy (histology), the study of cells and tissues under the microscope. He received teaching awards from the medical students as early as 1973, and as recently as 2018. In 2000, he was awarded the USC Associates in Teaching Award, the highest teaching honor the university bestows. He has served as a Faculty Fellow in the USC Center for Excellence in Teaching, and was designated as a Master Teacher by the Keck School. Likewise, Dr. Schechter has served Keck medical students as Assistant Dean for Student Affairs from 1996-2011, as Assistant Dean of Basic Science Curriculum from 1999-2008, and as Director of the Academic Medicine Pathway from 2005-2011. In these roles, he has advocated for students individually (Student Affairs) and collectively (Curriculum). He has taught anatomy and histology at the USC School of Pharmacy since 2011, and has developed programs for USC undergraduates interested in health care.