Advice for Pre-Med Students

Other advice for medical school applications from a conversation between Dr. Michelle Richards-Babb and Dr. Norman Ferrari, MD of the WVU School of Medicine

For med school applications, you need the following elements:

1) high gpa
2) good score on MCAT (as of 2008: WVU MCAT Avg score = 10, National MCAT Avg = 8)
3) good essay (essay should be meaty, not cutesy)
4) good letters of recommendation (critically important)

Letters of Recommendation: Get to know your math, biology, and chemistry professors. Go up to your professor’s office and personally introduce yourself. Visit your professor during office hours several times during the semester because…..letters of recommendation from professors are very important in the selection process. The best letters of recommendation come from professors who “know” the student and can address the student’s personal skills, interactions with peers and superiors, leadership qualities, ability to function as part of team as well as intellectual capabilities and academic potential.

Enhancing features for medical school applications:

1) community service
2) undergraduate research experience or internship experience
3) demonstrated leadership experience (e.g. officer of club, within student government, etc.
4) teaching assistant experience
5) double major
6) etc

In 2008, there were 3000 applicants to the WVU School of Medicine. Your application needs to stand out from the rest!!

The interview can make or break your application. Good personal skills and conversational skills are important.