

Dear MCB and Biochemistry Students,

My name is Rich Berkowitz and I am a University of Illinois alumnus. I graduated in 1979 with a BS in Biology from UIUC and earned an MD from UIC in 1983.

In 2010, I, along with your own Tina Knox, started the MCB Pathways to Health Careers Mentoring program. **Every year we hold an annual seminar where various alumni with diverse professional backgrounds in healthcare...physicians, dentists, allied health professionals, business people, and corporate and academic researchers, come to speak with you**, our society's most important resource, as you forge your way into the future of healthcare.

The goal of the program is to **match as many students as possible with alumni and other professionals** who are committed to mentoring students...helping students to navigate the many career choices available to them with an MCB degree. Some of you have it figured out, but many of you can use this invaluable experience to help you navigate the exigent process of choosing a career path.

As professional schools assess whether an applicant has done one's due diligence in investigating one's future career before applying to school, **the MCB mentoring program affords you the opportunity to meet and shadow a mentor, someone with whom you can discuss the professional aspects of your future career.**

I didn't have this opportunity as a student, but I wish I did. There is no question that mentoring programs help students navigate this difficult road. This fact is manifested by the number of mentoring programs that exist not only within the University of Illinois itself, but throughout the country. This is further corroborated by the research done in this area.

This year's seminar will be held on Thursday, October 27 and we hope you will take advantage of this informative session where you will be able to not only listen to a variety of professionals tell their stories, but ask them questions about why they chose the paths they did. The MCB Pathway to Health Careers Mentoring Program, thanks to Tina Knox and our dedicated alumni mentors, has become an award winning program.

I hope you will take time out of your schedules to join us for a wonderful evening with University of Illinois alumni and I look forward to meeting many of you.

Sincerely,

Rich Berkowitz

1979 B.S. Biology UIUC, 1983 M.D. UIC