

AL'S PALS!

The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University (AMS) has a tradition of pairing first-year medical students (M1's) with second-year (M2) pals--i.e. Al's Pals. Al's Pals is a student run program, and our goal is not only to assist M1's in getting settled into AMS and Providence, but also to build lasting friendships and community between and among the classes.

We remember that starting medical school can be both challenging and exhilarating: the whirlwind of orientation, the conquering of that first exam, the process of locating the best cafe, bar, restaurant, pharmacy, supermarket...the best everything.

Incoming students will not be alone through this process. A variety of academic, student health, advising, and other resources will be presented during orientation. However, on a more personal level, each incoming student can choose to be paired with an M2 Al's Pal, who having just been through it all, will be available as a guide, resource, and confidant.

To get the process started, incoming students will be sent an online survey over the summer. The suggestion is to fill it out as completely as possible, as these answers help direct the pairings that will be made--the Al's Pals coordinators have to get to know each student to assign the best possible M2 match!

During orientation, an ice cream social is planned as the first official opportunity to meet face-to-face. There will be a number of both social and educational events over the course of the year to help everyone keep in touch. However, incoming students are free to reach out to their M2 Al's Pals as soon as they would like, and M1-M2 Al's Pals pairs are encouraged to make their own plans - e.g., movie nights, bowling, hiking, biking, etc.

Please keep an eye out for the survey, and feel free to direct questions to any of the Al's Pals coordinators: (natalie_choy@brown.edu, esther_wu@brown.edu, john_debella@brown.edu, fatima_warsame@brown.edu, douglas_villalta@brown.edu, or jessica_chen1@brown.edu.

We look forward to meeting you all!