March 31, 2008

Dear Pre-health Advisor:

I am writing with an update for your students who may be interested in pursuing a graduate degree at Columbia University’s Institute of Human Nutrition. As you may know, nutrition is increasingly regarded as a critical – and major – modality in biomedical sciences, general healthcare and international health. Graduate education in nutrition provides an excellent foundation for medical, dental, or doctoral training, as well as for careers in the pharmaceutical industry, public health and international development.

To meet the growing demand for advanced training in human nutrition, Columbia University’s Institute of Human Nutrition has developed three new tracks for its M.S. degree in nutrition. In addition to the core M.S. courses that can be completed on a full-time basis in one year, we offer electives in one of the three tracks or areas of focus. This allows graduate students to focus on: 1) basic nutrition science research; 2) nutrition and public health; or 3) clinical nutrition. Students complete their MS thesis in either basic science or clinical research under the mentorship of faculty from any of twenty-five departments and affiliated institutions.

The MS program currently enrolls 70 students from diverse academic backgrounds and nationalities including the U.S., China, Turkey, Canada and India. Graduates of the Institute of Human Nutrition MS program go on to medical and dental school, the health care industry, healthcare communications, and public health. Admissions are done on a rolling basis and financial aid is available to qualified students. Applicants to the MS program are required to have completed two years of chemistry, one year of biology, and the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) or the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT).

To facilitate housing for incoming students, we have established a database of off-campus housing resources to complement on-campus housing in upper Manhattan. We also hold several Alumni and Career events to help guide students in the wide array of career options in the field of human nutrition.

If you or your students have any additional questions or if you would like to arrange for a program representative to speak with your pre-health students, please contact the Institute of Human Nutrition at (212) 305-4808, email nutrition@columbia.edu or Mandy Bischel at mjb2159@columbia.edu or visit our website at http://cumc.columbia.edu/dept/ihn to download an application.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Deckelbaum, M.D.
Robert R. Williams Professor of Nutrition
Director

Columbia University Medical Center