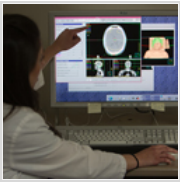
Sim Lab Impresses Students with Up-close View of Radiation Oncology

Interacting with high-tech tools in an oncology lab enriched the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine (OUWB) experience for medical students during a recent student-organization sponsored program at the Beaumont Cancer Center at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak.



The Radiology and Radiation Oncology Student Advocacy Group (RADSAG) hosted an evening in the radiation oncology simulation lab where students participated in mock exams to understand the purpose of important medical apparatuses such as a Philips Helical CT Simulator. Specifically, they studied gamma knife machines, beam radiation treatments and external radiation treatments and asked questions of the radiation therapists who operate the systems.

"Simulation lab events are a great opportunity for medical students to gain a better understanding of a medical specialty and get some hands-on experience," said Alyssa Kirsch, M.D. candidate, OUWB Class of 2017, RADSAG member.

Earlier in the year, the group organized an interventional radiology simulation lab at the Surgical Learning Center at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak where pharmaceutical representatives demonstrated the capabilities of the equipment used in interventional radiology procedures. With the guidance of radiology residents and interventional radiologists, medical students realized the benefits of minimally invasive procedures available in the field of interventional radiology.

"These events give students the chance to take a break from the books and experience some clinical exposure," said Kirsch. "We believe our events allows us as an organization to provide students with valuable opportunities to work with physicians and residents."

RADSAG will continue to plan radiation oncology and interventional radiology simulation labs to uphold its mission of providing medical students with a better understanding of the field of radiology and its subspecialties. For the fall, the group hopes to organize a series of resident panels.