

## Success Stories from the Class of 2015



### Senior MedTracker Amanda Jancewicz Earns Full Ride

Salutatorian Amanda Jancewicz '15 is one of only eight recipients of the prestigious Buckingham/Orr Scholarships, which provide a renewable scholarship covering full tuition, room and board, and a research stipend to attend the University of Akron. Amanda explored a variety of schools, including Case Western and Ohio State, but fell in love with the people and the program she found at Akron's College of Engineering. "Akron had the complete package for me –Honors College, facilities, technology, location, and an incredibly welcoming and supportive environment. I can't overstate how important those relationships were to my decision-making process."

Amanda emphasized that MedTrack helped her to really stand out in the first application round, where she focused her entire essay on the program and how it inspired her to find her passion in healthcare. In addition, the program prepared her for the rigorous interview process as well. "Not only did I utilize MedTrack's public speaking, interviewing, and professionalism skills, but I always had something interesting to talk about. We did so much in MedTrack over four years! 100% without a doubt, MedTrack helped me to achieve my goals." Amanda was also recognized as a finalist for the 2015 MedTrack Award.



### Multiple Dental School Offers for MedTrack Senior Steven Sivik

Steven Sivik '15, a senior in Padua's MedTrack program, received multiple offers to ultra-competitive BS-DDS programs. These programs are designed to give highly-qualified high school seniors a guaranteed spot in dental school, subject to them meeting continuing academic requirements. Steven has recently accepted an offer of admission to the Case Western School of Dental Medicine after he completes his accelerated undergraduate degree at the University of Toledo. He was also offered the same seat at Case Dental with his undergraduate education at the College of Wooster, as well as similar admissions offers at the University of Buffalo School of Dental Medicine and the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry.

Steven credits Padua Franciscan with helping to prepare him academically for this rigorous career path and MedTrack with helping him to truly discern that orthodontics was the right path for him. "Even though I wanted to be an orthodontist since I was a child, MedTrack's methodical career exploration provided me with the knowledge and confidence I needed to make the right decision." Steven said that all of his interviews touched on MedTrack in some fashion, including a discussion of his capstone research seminar during his interview at Case. Since he is quite interested in research, he is excited to put those skills to good use almost immediately – in Israel as early as next summer! Case's School of Dental Medicine is the only dental school to have an archaeological field research cave in Israel to explore early man's teeth. Steven's affinity for languages –he's able to read and write in 13 of them – will certainly help him in that endeavor.

Steven's parting advice for incoming students? "MedTrack was awesome! I definitely recommend it."

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### Jacob Grimmer '15 Connected to OSU College of Medicine

The Ohio State University's College of Medicine is one of only a handful of colleges in the country to offer an undergraduate major in Biomedical Science, and MedTrack senior **Jacob Grimmer** is one of only a handful of students who will enroll in the major this fall. Jacob was attracted to this program because it focuses on medical research at the undergraduate level. "I see this program as a natural extension of what we were doing in MedTrack. In particular, the Honors Advanced Science Seminar helped me to develop the foundational skills and confidence necessary to tackle this advanced curriculum."

Jacob endured multiple interviews before gaining his seat in the incoming class of approximately two dozen students. "I think that MedTrack helps all seniors address why they are a good fit for a particular program or school. The interviewers really seemed to respond to the evidence that I could provide regarding my serious career discernment and preparation," Jacob said.



### MedTrack – Just Do It!

As the 2015 recipient of the MedTrack Award, Mackenzie Carroll '15 is an advocate of the "Nike approach" to MedTrack... just do it! "I've wanted to be a medical examiner since I was 12 years old," Mackenzie said. "But MedTrack helped me obtain both a breadth and depth of experience which is unparalleled. Even if I wasn't interested in a particular career, I tried to take away something from each session which will help me become a better professional and a better healthcare colleague."

MedTrack's offerings, including Mackenzie's summer Externship with the surgical pathology department at the Cleveland Clinic, certainly made an impression on the folks at St. Louis University, Mackenzie's first-choice school. "The admissions counselor even called my house to share how impressed the team was with my resume, which was chock full of MedTrack experiences." Mackenzie received a renewable, half-tuition scholarship in recognition of her efforts.

Mackenzie chose St. Louis University after a campus visit, where she really felt she was a valued – and valuable – member of the community. "I know I won't just be a number there," she said. "What I do on campus, and who I will become, will matter. I loved that SLU stresses the character of its graduates, because that's what I feel about Padua, too."

And about that Nike approach to MedTrack? "Don't give up. MedTrack is so worth it. Just do it!!"

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	<p><b>Annmarie Rosa '15 Pursuing PA Master's Program at Gannon</b></p> <p>Annmarie Rosa '15 is excited to be one of only 58 students enrolled in the Master of Physician Assistant Science program at Gannon University. This five-year program provides a more direct route to advanced patient care opportunities. Students train in the Patient Simulation Center, the largest of its kind in the region. The Patient Simulation Center uses a breakthrough, multidisciplinary approach, bringing students from a variety of fields together for collaborative learning.</p> <p>Annmarie became interested in the role of the physician assistant during her MedTrack summer Externship in the Emergency Department at UH Parma Medical Center (then Parma Community General Hospital). Her host, Padua alum Dr. Michelle Beskid '99, encouraged her to observe a variety of professionals in the emergency setting. "I appreciated what all the team members were doing," Annmarie said. "But I felt connected to and compelled by the hands-on aspect of the PA."</p> <p>Annmarie also received a service scholarship at Gannon. During her presentation, she stressed the MedTrack fundraising efforts to support the Shot at Life organization, as well as her MedTrack senior group public health research project focused on healthy habits in children. "The career exploration, professionalism training and skills, so many different things...MedTrack gave me the experience I needed to succeed."</p>
	<p><b>Scholarship &amp; Pharmacy School Admission for Brianne Litwinowicz '15</b></p> <p>Brianne Litwinowicz '15 has been awarded a guaranteed spot in the pharmacy graduate program at the University of Toledo. This accomplishment carries several benefits, including a full-tuition "Pharmacy Excellency Scholarship" which covers all six years of the program and waiver of the Pharmacy College Admission Test requirement. MedTrack's social justice class focused on bioethics was an important part of her interview. "I think the interviewers were impressed that I could address the ethical issues the profession is facing."</p> <p>The accelerated pharmacy path Brianne has chosen will help her achieve her ultimate goal – becoming a hematologist oncologist – more quickly. Why the two professional degrees? "The academic counselor at Toledo helped me to see how essential pharmaceutical advancements are to the treatment of oncology, and particularly hematology, patients. Ultimately, I believe that being a pharmacist will make me a better physician," Brianne said.</p> <p>Brianne's interest in oncology was sparked during grade school when a teacher lost her battle with cancer. She was introduced to hematology by an off-handed comment made during a MedTrack nursing career session, in the context of demonstrating that nurses can work in any different field. "It sounded interesting to me, so I decided to look into it," she laughed. Dr. Jason Valent, a hematologist oncologist at the Cleveland Clinic's Taussig Cancer Center, helped Brianne to get a birds-eye view of the field during her 40-hour clinical observation Externship experience. Her passion for the field and her commitment to excellence were demonstrated by Brianne achieving one of the "Top 3 Presenters" and "Overall Externship Award Winner" from among all her MedTrack classmates.</p> <p>Brianne's commitment to her faith also played a large role in her decision to attend Toledo. "I had originally been looking mostly at Catholic colleges, but I really felt at home at Corpus Christi University Parish. I can't wait to get on campus and get involved!"</p>

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### **Kaitlyn Patacca '15 Selected for Elite Medical School Admission**

Kaitlyn Patacca '15 has accepted admission to Northeast Ohio Medical University's BS-MD program, an elite, accelerated pathway to complete her medical education in six years. She has already begun her coursework at the University of Akron, where she is majoring in natural sciences. From among hundreds of applicants, Kaitlyn endured an extensive interview process before gaining a guaranteed seat in medical school –one of only 35 students selected for the program's Akron cohort. "I definitely spoke about MedTrack in all of my interviews. I think it helped to distinguish me from other students who had equally good grades and test scores," she said.

Kaitlyn also found MedTrack's career speaker series to be particularly beneficial. "It helps to give you a different perspective, and lets you hear directly from those in the profession. I really liked that interaction." As with so many things in life, Kaitlyn believes that you are going to get out of MedTrack only what you put into it. "You have to put forth the effort, but I would do it all over again to achieve the same benefit." In recognition of all of her efforts in and support of MedTrack, Kaitlyn was selected as one of the finalists for the 2015 MedTrack Award.



### **Paneccasio Earns Spot in Duquesne Pharmacy Program**

Antonietta Paneccasio '15 has parlayed MedTrack to a seat in the pharmacy program at Duquesne University. "When I visited Duquesne, everybody I spoke with said, 'Tell me more about MedTrack!' By the end of the day, the admissions representatives were asking me to apply to the pharmacy program, with the strong likelihood of a positive decision on my behalf." Antonietta believes that the strong academic preparation that Padua provides to all of its students, combined with the focused career exploration and professional skills found in MedTrack, proved to be the key to her success.