

July 2017

Dear Students:

As part of your training, you are required to purchase and use a number of medical diagnostic tools. Please see below for the equipment you will need during your four years at P&S and beyond and some tips from the faculty. We recognize that the equipment is expensive and have included it in the student budget and financial aid calculations.

Your P&S American Medical Student Association (AMSA) chapter will organize an equipment sale through their preferred vendor Welch Allyn to streamline your equipment purchases and to raise funds for the chapter.

Alternatively, you may purchase the equipment on your own. Students often purchase equipment from graduating seniors or online. If you purchase used equipment, we strongly encourage you to test it before you buy it. The Columbia Medical Bookstore (212-305-6800) also sells some of the smaller items (pen lights, reflex hammers, eye charts, tuning forks). Please note that the funds for purchasing this equipment are included in the budget for all those receiving financial aid.

We very much look forward to welcoming you to P&S in just a few short weeks!

Warmly,

Jonathan Amiel, MD
Associate Dean for Curricular Affairs

**Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons
Required Equipment
July 2017**

1. STETHOSCOPE

- The P&S Alumni Association will provide you with a Littmann Cardiology III stethoscope as a welcome gift on your arrival at P&S.

2. OPHTHALMOSCOPE / OTOSCOPE SET

- **Should I purchase an ophthalmoscope with a coaxial or a panoptic head?** Either works well though some students and clinicians prefer the panoptic head for ease of use.
- **Should I purchase a set with a lithium handle or a conventional handle?** You may purchase either. The lithium handle is lighter, holds its charge longer and costs more.
- **Should I purchase a full-size (3.5V) or a pocket-size (2.5V) kit?** You need the full-size (3.5V) kit. The full-size, while a bit bulkier, is much easier to train on and will allow you to visualize hard-to-see structures with greater ease than the smaller pocket-size kit.

3. SPHYGMOMANOMETER (MANUAL BLOOD PRESSURE METER)

4. REFLEX HAMMER

- **What kind should I get???** There are a variety of reflex hammers available and all are acceptable. The Taylor hammer (aka Tomahwak) is the most popular among generalists. Some neurologists prefer the Queens Square type while Dr. Noble, director of the neurology clerkship, recommends the Tromner.

5. TUNING FORKS

- **How many tuning forks of which frequencies will I need?** You will need two tuning forks. You will use the low frequency **C128** fork to test patients' sense of vibration and the high frequency **C512** fork to test hearing.

6. POCKET SNELLEN CHART

- This is the eye chart that you will need to use at the bedside and will need in the Major Clinical Year.

7. PEN LIGHT(S)

- Buy a couple – you will use these frequently and, like pens, they get lost easily.