CALENDAR
FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS

WHITE COAT CEREMONY
AUGUST 9
3 p.m.
Scaife Hall, Lecture Rooms 5 and 6
Reception to follow
Petersen Events Center Lobby
For information:
Andre Burton at 412-648-9090
aab86@pitt.edu

PHILIP S. HENCH DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD DINNER
AUGUST 9
6 p.m.
Recipient—Eric A. Klein (MD ’81)
University Club, 123 University Place
For information:
Jen Gabler at 412-647-3792
jag88@pitt.edu

MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 26
6 p.m.
For information:
Jen Gabler at 412-647-3792
jag88@pitt.edu

WASHINGTON, D.C., ALUMNI RECEPTION
SEPTEMBER 10
6-8:30 p.m.
The Hay-Adams, 800 16th St. NW
RSVP to Rachel Edman at 412-864-1957
rge6@pitt.edu

MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HOMECOMING TAILGATE
OCTOBER 10
Three hours before kick-off
Heinz Field, Lot Red 5A
For information:
Ashley Knoch at 412-648-9059
akk57@pitt.edu

To find out what else is happening at the medical school, visit health.pitt.edu and maa.pitt.edu.

FOR REAL! Tween Science

Apparently, there is more to the ear than meets the eye. Earwax, known also as cerumen, is a combination of sweat and oily matter from glands beneath the skin of the ear canal. Doctors already knew that earwax keeps your ears healthy by preventing bugs from crawling into the ear canal and keeping bacteria and fungi from entering the ear. But now they are learning more. The type of earwax you have depends on your ethnicity: People of East Asian or Native American descent tend to have dry, flaky, whiteish earwax, while people of European and African descent have wet, sticky, yellow-brown earwax. Why? It all has to do with your genes. “It’s like having thin or thick hair: Both types of earwax get the job done,” says Pitt ENT doc Barry Hirsch.

And earwax composition can reveal even more about you: A syrupy smell might indicate a disease called maple syrup urine disease. Some chemists now believe earwax may be able to communicate what you eat and where you’ve been.

Regardless of its telltale potential, earwax helps the ear function and stay healthy. So for the love of your ears, skip the cotton swabs. —Susan Wiedel

Still all ears? Check out bit.ly/1OuKlAF

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