

# 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

jag188@pitt.edu

## MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BOARD MEETING

AUGUST 26

6 p.m.

For information:

Jen Gabler at 412-647-3792

jag188@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](http://health.pitt.edu) and [maa.pitt.edu](http://maa.pitt.edu).

YUSUKE TADOKA/EYEEM/GETTY IMAGES



## 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](http://bit.ly/1OuKlAF)