

# CALENDAR

FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS

## WINTER ACADEMY

**FEBRUARY 15**

The Breakers, Palm Beach, Fla.

**FEBRUARY 17**

Ritz-Carlton, Naples, Fla.

For information:

Jen Gabler at 412-647-3792

or jag188@pitt.edu

## PITT DAY OF GIVING

**FEBRUARY 28**

For information:

Kelsey Thayer at 412-648-9090

or kelsey.thayer@pitt.edu

## CLASS OF 2017 MATCH DAY

**MARCH 17**

Petersen Events Center

For information:

Ashley Knoch at 412-648-9059

or akk57@pitt.edu

## PITT ALUMNI & FRIENDS PRESENTATION & RECEPTION BALTIMORE, MD

**APRIL 20**

6–8:30 p.m.

For information:

Rachel Edman at 412-647-4241

or rge6@pitt.edu

## MAA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

**APRIL 26**

Location TBA

Ashley Knoch at 412-648-9059

or akk57@pitt.edu

*\*Consider becoming an MAA board member. (Teleconferencing is available for four annual MAA meetings if you are not a local physician.)*

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).

This doesn't smell/taste/  
feel/look right.

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## FOR REAL! TWEEN SCIENCE

For generations, kids forced to eat every last bite of a dinner they dislike have been savvy to the nose-holding trick: If you can't smell a food, you can't taste it very well, either. Without even trying, they've discovered that taste and smell are strongly connected to each other.

In fact, all of the senses—taste and smell, but also sight, hearing, and touch—are part of the sensory nervous system and are linked together. Our sensory nervous system helps us decode the world around us and figure out how to respond to it. We may get our first cues about the flavor of broccoli by smelling it, but our brain also decides whether it's delicious enough to swallow (or not!) by evaluating how it looks on our fork, feels in our mouth, and sounds as we chew it.

Some people have a condition called synesthesia, in which their senses actually overlap. Some synesthetes see each letter of the alphabet as having its own special color. Some feel an itch when they hear piano music. Some taste strawberries every time they see a chair. Do you think these different abilities would be annoying to live with? Or would they be more like superpowers?

—Lela Nargi

*Auditory physiologist Thanos Tzounopoulos helped us see deep into our senses.*