



WE ARE FAMILY

Rebecca Leeman-Neill (shown center) is from the Boston area. She finished the University of Pittsburgh's MD/PhD program this year and has begun her pathology residency at UPMC. She recalls making her choice to come to the city and University: "I really liked it here, and I thought the MD/PhD program was fantastic—better than any MD/PhD program I had visited. And I went all over the place—Chicago, Wisconsin, Boston, New York."

She was the first, but not the only, Leeman charmed by the School of Medicine. She has since been joined by two of her brothers: Jonathan Leeman (shown right) is in the Class of 2013 and part of the physician-scientist training program (a five-year program, with one year of research between the second and third years of medical school). Joshua Leeman (left) is beginning the second year of a radiology residency.

"One reason I'm here is that Rebecca was here," says Jonathan, "and I knew that Josh would be here when I was accepted."

"We try to get together pretty regularly," says Rebecca. "I lived in Pittsburgh without my family for a long time, and it has made a big difference to have you guys here."

"It's good being in the same city for a number of reasons," says Joshua in agreement. "I get to mentor you guys and give you advice."

"Hey, I'm older than you!" his sister reminds him.

"But I've been through it, so I'm kind of in a mentoring role. When we do hang out, we tend to go overboard with the medical topics, I think. If anyone else is there, they kind of want to tear their hair out."

Jonathan chimes in: "Even when we go home, just talking to Dad, we end up talking about medical things." (Their father is a cardiologist—"He gets to do big procedures on a daily basis; gets to save lives," adds Jonathan. Heart disease will be Jonathan's own research focus.)

"I don't know how it happened that we all ended up going to medical school," his older brother muses.

"We do have a younger brother who's studying mathematics at Princeton," Rebecca says.

"Is he going into medicine?" Jonathan wonders aloud.

"Probably," says Joshua. —Chuck Staresinic

—Photo by Annie O'Neill