

Curriculum Connections

A newsletter of the Education Council and the Medical Education Support Unit
October 1998

Enclosed in this issue of Curriculum Connections is a summary of the Medical Education Retreat (May 1998).

Educational Committees

The Education Council re-elected Allen Rawitch, Ph.D., as Chair for the 1998-1999 term. The Education Council is in the process of constituting the Year 1-2 and Year 3-4 Oversight Committees and the names of these individuals will be published in the next issue of Curriculum Connections. Any faculty member interested in serving on either of these committees should contact Dr. Rawitch at ext. 6957 or via email.

First Year News

Summary of Student Responses to the End-of-First Year Curriculum Evaluation (Spring 1998)

Overall, the courses within the system blocks were considered well integrated. The majority of students reported that the length of the Gastrointestinal and Endocrine blocks was about right, while many students indicated that the length of the Renal and Neuroscience blocks was too short. The majority of students indicated that clinically relevant material was presented in the lectures of four of the Spring semester courses, but in three other courses, the clinical relevance of the lecture material was not adequate. For most courses, the small group sessions incorporated clinically relevant material. In general, small group experiences were seen as enhancing the lecture material and most students indicated that the number and length of the small group sessions was about right. Students tended to spend more time preparing for basic science small groups than Introduction to Clinical Medicine small groups. About two-thirds of the students reported that the amount of scheduled course time during the Spring semester was too much. Most students indicated that the length of the spring break was about right. The majority of students indicated that the number of examinations and the time allotted to complete the exams was appropriate.

Third Year News

Summary of Student Responses to the End-of-Third Year Curriculum Evaluation (Spring 1998)

Overall, the response rate was generally adequate for the KC campus, but very low for the Wichita campus. Thus, the following summary is based only on the results from the Kansas City campus. The majority of respondents indicated improved clinical skills as a result of their 3rd year clerkship experiences. Most students reported that many of the clerkships provided a good learning experience. About two-thirds of the students reported that the objectives for most of the clerkships were clearly specified. The majority of the students reported that they were able to complete the clerkship objectives. The number and variety of patients seen was considered adequate for most clerkships. A significant number of students reported that the evaluation methods were clearly explained for the majority of the clerkships. Timely and appropriate feedback about student progress was judged to be a deficiency in a number of clerkships.

Medical Education Network Sites

In order to link the Medical School to students and providers across the state, KU has established six regional Medical Education Network sites. The director and staff at each site promote the development of physicians at each stage of their professional life cycle: premedical education, undergraduate medical education, graduate medical education and professional practice. Each network site serves the surrounding geographic region: Garden City (Southwest), Hays (Northwest), Manhattan (Northeast), McPherson (South Central), Pittsburg (Southeast) and Salina (North Central).

For medical students, the rural network sites offer an opportunity to gain broad clinical experience. Students in the 3rd or 4th years can choose to do either an entire clerkship or part of it in pediatrics, ambulatory medicine/geriatrics, family medicine, and neuropsychiatry at a rural Network site. Allowing 3rd year students to do rural rotations, according to David Calkins, MD, MPP, Acting Associate Dean for Medical Education, is expected to give students exposure to rural practice earlier in their careers, before they have already committed themselves to a specialty.

The rural sites offer programs before and after medical school. The Primary Care Summer Mentor Program allows college students to shadow primary care physicians in order to encourage them to consider rural practice. The Scholars in Primary Care Program offers conditional early admission to medical school to college students with strong academic records and a commitment to practicing in an underserved rural or urban area. For practicing physicians, KU Connect links rural MD's to learning resources at the medical school via the internet. In the future, CME courses may be offered through this internet link.

Featured site this month: Garden City, Southwestern Region

Garden City rotations offer 3rd and 4th year medical students a broad range of clinical

experience because the practitioners in this region are like "the classic physician of days of old," according to Garden City Medical Education Director Ann Polich, MD. Because the area is remote and underserved, "if you go on rotation with a pediatrician, you'll see everything from endocrinology to cardiology" and a general practitioner will "do everything from performing surgery to delivering babies."

In addition to the clinical experience, a clerkship in Garden City also gives students an opportunity to see "how the physician acts as neighbor and citizen" in his or her town. Because Garden City is the fastest growing area in the state, Polich strongly encourages students to consider a rotation at her site: "We're in dire need."

Since the clerkships were started in January 1998, six students have completed rotations at Garden City. Fourth-year student Jennifer Firestone, who did a rotation in April, saw over 200 pediatric patients in the equivalent of nine clinic days in Garden City. Not only did she see more children than she would normally see at KU, but she also saw a greater variety of cases. "Because there is no children's specialty hospital right around the corner, in Garden City I saw everything from the usual well-child visit to rare illnesses," Firestone said. And, because the physicians in Garden City are in such great demand, Firestone said she performed many of the procedures that she usually observes.

Network Site Directors

Ann Polich, MD Garden City
Richard Ohmart, MD Hays
Anne Wigglesworth, MD Manhattan
Greg Thomas, MD McPherson
Marla Ullom-Minnich, MD (co-director)
Richard Watson, MD (co-director)
Robert Haskins, MD Pittsburg
David Hanson, MD Salina

Medical Education Support Unit (MESU) Returns to 4th Floor Murphy

MESU has returned to its home on the 4th floor of Murphy.
The room numbers and extensions for each member of the team are:

<u>4953 Murphy</u>		<u>Extension</u>
Giulia Bonaminio, Ph.D.	Director	7208
Tony Paolo, Ph.D.	Coordinator of Assessment and Evaluation	7224
Kelly Magaha	Office Specialist	8220
<u>4955 Murphy</u>		
Susan Robinson	Introduction to Clinical Medicine Coordinator	7216
David Virtue, Ph.D.	Standardized Patient Program Coordinator	7211
Beth Weber	Secretary	7200

Upcoming Events

(from Med Ed 101, a course sponsored by the Office of Faculty Development and MESU)

Small Group Teaching

Hilliard Jason, M.D., Ed.D.
Dept. of Family Medicine
University of Colorado School of Medicine
November 6, 1998
1:00-3:00 p.m.
1010 Orr Major

Large Group & Lecture Formats

Jim Fishback, M.D.
Dept. of Pathology
Anne Walling, M.D.
Dept. of Family and Community Medicine-Wichita
January 8, 1999
1:00-3:00 p.m.
1010 Orr Major

Editorial Comments Invited

Curriculum Connections was developed by the Education Council to keep faculty and students informed about progress and procedures to reform the KU School of Medicine curriculum. Although the major implementation of the new curriculum is complete, the curriculum renewal process is ongoing and dynamic. *Curriculum Connections* will strive to keep faculty, students and staff up to date on the KU medical curriculum and you are invited to submit comments, suggestions and/or newsworthy items relating to medical education. Please contact either Dr. Allen Rawitch, Chair of the Education Council, or Dr. Giulia Bonaminio, Director of the Medical Education Support Unit, with your feedback.