

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE NEWSLETTER

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## Presiding Officer's Report by Miriam Feuerman, Ph.D

Governance is the voice of the faculty at Downstate Medical Center. Elections will be held in the Spring. Please consider running for a position on the Executive Committee or becoming a Subcommittee Chair. Currently there is a vacancy for the chair of the Faculty and Professional Staff subcommittee. The purview of this committee includes quality of life issues as well as personnel policies to leading to promotion of faculty and staff. We can change things for the better.

### Curriculum Renewal

A full report on the progress of Curriculum Renewal was presented by John Lewis, Associate Dean, Foundations of Medicine, at the Semi-Annual meeting of the faculty and staff on November 9. Although the first year of the Foundations Years of the New Curriculum is scheduled to start in August of 2013, it has been proposed that the new organization for the Clerkships start in July of 2012. The new organization includes the pairing of clerkships to facilitate integration of knowledge and skills common to both, a pilot of a longitudinal primary care experience that is designed to provide insight into dealing with patients more than once and elective time so the students may try-out areas they may wish to specialize in before fourth year. The CEPC and the Executive Committee has

sent recommendations to the Dean that the new Clerkship organization start in July of 2012 pending the resolution of a variety of issues including the availability of sufficient electives for third year students and repercussions of the Longitudinal Primary Care Experience on other students and clerkships.

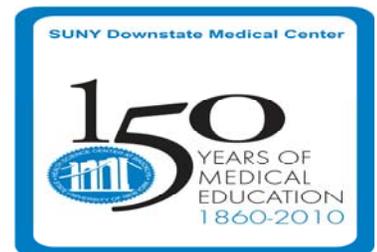
The CEPC and the Executive Committee is meeting with Dr. Pam Sass, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and other members of the Curriculum Renewal Leadership to discuss the adoption of a pass/fail grading system for the Foundations of Medicine (pre-clerkship) course. The CEPC and the Executive Committees with draft recommendations to the Dean. If you would like to weigh in on this decision, please send me an e-mail stating your position and rationale before February 3.

### LCME Accreditation

Dr. Richard Coico will be heading up efforts to renew our LCME accreditation. The first step is the self-study in preparation for the site visit which will take place in early 2013.

### Teaching Tenure Track line

An ad hoc committee has been appointed to investigate the proposal that a teaching tenure track be added, to recognize significant contributions to the educational enterprise. The committee, chaired by



Dr. Barbara Delano was charged with researching the policies of other schools, whether they have such a line and what are the qualifications for advancement. A report has been submitted to the Executive Committee to provide the basis for drafting a recommendation to the Dean.

### Recycling

A proposal to re-purpose one trash pickup week to a pickup of sorted recyclables was tendered to FM&D. This will lead to greater reclamation of recyclables and will save \$60 for every ton of refuse redirected to the recyclable dumpster. FM&D rejected this proposal claiming it would require additional manpower.

The Children's Center provides daycare for infants and children through pre-kindergarten. Send your used toner cartridges to Box 91, through the mailroom, and the Children's Center will recycle them while earning money.

## CURRICULUM RENEWAL

## College of Medicine Curriculum Update

Dear Faculty Member,

Last spring, the College of Medicine decided to embark on a “rolling implementation” strategy for the new curriculum and associated changes to the learning environment. Here’s what is happening:

In July of 2012, MS3 students begin a newly structured clerkship year in which clerkships are grouped to allow the opportunity for enhanced teaching across clerkships. This will facilitate further gradual changes to the clerkships such as revisiting biomedical science and more robust assessment of the six competencies.

A group of students is formulating recommendations for an Honor Code and Honor Council.

A faculty development program is underway to support excellence in teaching, curriculum development, and assessment.

The Foundations of Medicine curriculum for the incoming class of August 2013 will feature integrated learning of “normal and abnormal”, integrated or coordinated learning of Medical Knowledge and Clinical Skills, and increased reliance on faculty-directed student-centered learning. Familiar learning methods that incorporate active learning will predominate in the first iteration of the curriculum with the expectation that our faculty will develop expertise in new teaching methods as time goes on.

To prepare for the Foundations of Medicine years beginning in August 2013, six Unit Directors have been appointed. Their Unit design teams are hard at work writing Learning Objectives for the Units. Over sixty faculty members are currently engaged in this work.

The Unit Directors are as follows:

Unit One – Systems Overview: Human Structure and Function	<i>Keith Williams, Ph.D.</i>
Unit Two – Basis of Disease I: Molecules to Cells	<i>Miriam Feuerman, Ph.D.</i>
Unit Three – Basis of Disease II: Infection and Host Defense	<i>Fred Volkert, Ph.D.</i>
Unit Four – Body Systems I: Gastrointestinal, Endocrine, Reproduction and Sexuality	<i>Mariana Markell, M.D.</i>
Unit Five – Body Systems II: Cardiovascular, Respiratory, and Renal	<i>Riccardo Bianchi, Ph.D.</i>
Unit Six- Body Systems III: Brain, Mind, and Behavior	<i>Lisa Merlin, M.D.</i>

Now that the Foundations of Medicine Units are taking shape, we will have a series of meetings both large and small so that faculty members who are not directly engaged in the design work can see the work and have the opportunity to join this endeavor. As always, if you have any questions or comments, please send them to me or give me a call.

Pamela Sass, M.D.

Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

## Announcements

### Subcommittee Chairs (2011-2012)

Dr. Maja Nowakowski  
Dr. Ivan Bodis-Wollner  
Dr. Douglass Lazzaro  
Dr. Shirley Eisner  
To be filled  
Dr. Helen Durkin  
Dr. Kathleen Powderly  
Dr. Steven Ostrow  
Dr. Allen Norin

### Subcommittee

Nomination Committee  
Co-Chair -Nomination Committee  
CAPQ Committee  
CEPC Committee  
Faculty and Professional Staff  
Research, Resource and Budget  
Faculty and Student Activities  
Student Admission and Academic Standard  
By-Laws Committee

If you are interested in becoming active in any of the committees, or have any questions,  
please email: [executivecommittee@downstate.edu](mailto:executivecommittee@downstate.edu)

## Executive Committee Meeting Dates

Pediatric Library, SUH 4th Floor, Room B4-462

3:30 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.

Monday, February 6, 2012

Monday, March 5, 2012

Monday, April 2, 2012

## Up-Coming Events

Semi Annual Meeting-April 2012

Elections- May 7, 2012-May 21, 2012

LCME Site Visit-Feb 2013

## Dean's Corner

I am delighted to be able to report progress on a number of fronts – progress that has been sustained over a period of time:-

First, we have experienced a truly amazing increase in applicants to our school from 2004 [3,230] to 2010 [5,351]. This is an increase of 66% which is remarkable when one considers the national pool of applicants has only increased 17% over that same time period. The average MCAT score of our entering class markedly exceeds the national average which was not the case 5 years ago. Our students are also exceeding national norms on National Boards and we continue to have excellent resident matches for our graduates.

Second, according to the NIH web site, our NIH research funding has increased 39% since 2006 which, given the difficult funding climate, is a remarkable achievement for which the basic and clinical researchers should be most proud. It is particularly noteworthy that the concept of the SUNY Medical Centers coming together to work on joint research projects originated here at Downstate. The leadership of our Ophthalmology Department got together with their counterparts at Upstate to embark on a joint research project. This quickly involved the other SUNY Medical schools and SUNY's School of Optometry. Out of this grew the "REACH" initiative stimulated by investments by the Presidents of all the SUNY Medical campuses. Two of Downstate's recent recruits, Dr. Jack Aranda and Dr. Steve Levine, are the PI's on multi-school grants that have been funded by the NIH to the tune of \$4.3 million. There is a great deal of attraction in the NIH's eyes to the SUNY campuses combining their strengths on important projects that involve basic and clinical researchers working together. These two multi-million dollar grants are not a part of the 39% increase in NIH research funding mentioned above.

In addition, we should break ground on the new academic building some time in the summer of 2012 and completion is anticipated in academic year 2015-16. The state has provided \$100 million dollars to cover the design and construction, and as a result the school will not encumber any debt as a result of this wonderful construction project. It will provide a new image for the Medical Center as one approaches from Clarkson Avenue. Within this building we will have new teaching facilities, a Standardized Patient Facility, a Simulation Center and two floors of new laboratories to house multi-investigator research centers of excellence.

Finally, we have embarked on the LCME Self Study process in preparation for the LCME site visit that will occur in February 2013. This is a very significant endeavor of great importance to our school and its faculty, staff and students, and is also one that has become increasingly demanding over the six years the College was last reviewed by the LCME--as many of you will be aware, our sister school at SUNY Upstate recently received a letter of probation after their most recent LCME site visit. Probationary status requires the school to write to every student and every applicant to inform them of the probationary status of their educational programs. Needless to say, such an event can, amongst other things, precipitate transfers and lower applicant numbers. It is very important that everyone work hard to ensure that the LCME site visit goes well, that we conduct an open and honest Self Study, and that we work together to address any issues that arise in the course of our internal review so that we can put our best foot forward during the 2013 Site Visit. We are currently forming a broadly representative Task Force that will oversee the process of preparing for the review and you can expect to see a great deal of activity with regard to the Self Study in the first half of 2012.

In closing, I want to thank the Executive Committee, its various sub-committees and the faculty at large for their hard work and dedication to the mission of our school.



**Ian L. Taylor, M.D., Ph.D.**  
**Dean of the College of Medicine**