

Medical Student Selection Committee (MSSC) – Annual Report 2007-2008

Chairman: Eduardo Gonzalez, M.D.

August 22, 2008

With the start of the class of 2012, the work of the Medical Student Selection Committee (MSSC) for the 2007-2008 year has come to a close. I am grateful for the honor to serve the College of Medicine as chair of the committee. I am proud of the effort of the MSSC members. The faculty and students in this group are truly dedicated to the work of selecting the best group of students for the USFCOM. Time will be the judge of this effort, but I am impressed with the passion and sacrifice of time that is willingly given for our future.

I would appreciate your acknowledging the work of the committee members by communicating with the chairs of the departments they represent. It is important that this effort be recognized by the greater COM community. I estimate during the 2007-2008 interview season that the average committee member spent over 260 hours in committee work. These hours included the review of applications prior to the meetings, attending the 28 evening meetings, interviewing the Early Decision, 7-year Honors Program, Medical Science MS candidates as well as the regular applicants. This year, the MSSC reviewed 378 regular applicants, 194 (55 sophomores and 139 freshmen) 7-Year Honors Programs students and 13 Medical Science MS students.

For the fifth year in a row, the Admissions Office had a record number of applications with 2949 which is a 7.7% increase from previous year, and a 28.6% increase over two years. This increase continues to occur nationally and in Florida where we had a 2.2% increase in Florida applicants who met our requirements. Though the numbers have overall increased, the increases are smaller than previous years. The Class of 2012 is made up of 120 students: 94 of these regular applicants, 5 Early Decision, 2 deferred, 13 Honors, and 8 IMS program students. Academically the class comes in with an average TGPA and SPGA of 3.7 and 3.6, respectively; and an average MCAT of 30.5. The matriculating class of 2012 again shows great diversity: 13% are “under-represented”, another 17.5% have self-identified as non-white and 17% have obtained a Master’s Degree or PhD. This year’s class is 46.5% male and 52.5% female. The majority of the students are from those undergraduate programs that typically dominate: UF (36) and USF (25), but 59 are from other undergrad programs from across the country including Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Notre Dame, Cornell, Boston U, Emory, and UCLA. Our Honors Program continues to bring in students with 13 (same as last year) members of the starting class coming via this process; 11 were from USF, 1 from UCF, and 1 from FIU. We also have 11 non-Florida residents in the Class of 2012. The number of non-Florida applicants increased 15.5% from the previous year.

Interviewing continues to be a challenge for the admissions process. The MSSC recognizes the importance of the interview in providing information that is best obtained in this manner and the opportunity it provides for recruitment. This past year with the assistance of faculty, residents and medical students we were able to interview more applicants than the previous year. The MSSC continues to strive for improvement in the interview process. Increasing the

availability of faculty to interview, training interviewers in how best to interview, and improving how the information can be best obtained are all areas the MSSC has set to improve upon for this next year. The MSSC would appreciate any assistance in recruiting enthusiastic faculty willing to participate in this area.

With the start of two new medical schools in Florida this coming year, attracting the best students to USFCOM will require our best efforts in providing information about the growth and strengths of USF, particularly the clinical opportunities in a dynamic metropolitan area and the success of USF research development. There are a number of ways this can be done, but one of the best venues for informing applicants is during the interview process. This past year brought with it a new and vitalized presentation for applicants when they presented on interview day. Dr. Bognar's presentation on the curriculum and his enthusiasm was consistently something interviewees mentioned on evaluations. Applicants also consistently were impressed with their tours of the school, South Tampa Center, TGH, VA Hospital, Moffitt, and also our faculty. The utilization of medical students during interview day was also very appreciated by applicants. Their presence and openness to questions were very appreciated by interviewees. The inclusion of pictures and occasional emails (especially the email after the Match) to those who had interviewed were also new things that seem to add to the overall experience. Another area that was improved upon was how the application process was conducted. New ways of making applications more efficient and easy to use were re-evaluated. The year also saw two new events. The new and improved Second Look Program (SLP) for those who had been admitted or waitlisted, and the Orientation Program (OP) for first year BS/MD students was very well received. This was the first OP USF had had which included all of the affiliated programs. Strongly due to persons such as Leila Amiri and Nazach Rodriguez-Snapp the day was one filled with experiences and information that left students with a much better impression of what USFCOM was about. Another significant step in recruitment this past year was the availability of several full scholarships for URM candidates. This had a noticeable affect on the recruitment of highly qualified candidates who would have likely gone to other schools who had offered similar scholarships.

Towards the end of the 2007-2008 year, the MSSC held its fourth annual retreat July, 24 2008. Important issues that were discussed included a review of our current processes, a review of how successful we were in the last year, and finally a discussion of what qualities we would like to see in applicants we invite for an interview. A number of strategies were suggested by the members and are currently being organized and evaluated as to the best way to implement them.

This past year was one of transition. With the loss of our previous admissions director, Mr. Rel Larkin, to UCF there were a number of changes which required re-training and time to familiarize persons with the process. This next year brings another transition in which the MSSC looks forward to working with Dr. Alicia Monroe, the new Vice Dean of Educational Affairs. Dr. Monroe has taken on the role of managing the Admissions Office and will be attending the MSSC meetings. As such she is now the director of admissions as well as the Vice Dean of Educational Affairs. The MSSC looks forward to continuing its mission of

reviewing and making recommendations concerning procedures, by which applicants are screened, interviewed and selected; and reviewing all applications for admission to the College in order to recommend to the Dean a list of candidates and alternate candidates for admission.