

Medical Student Selection Committee
Annual Report 2002-03
Chair: Dennis K. Ledford, M.D.

The Medical Student Selection Committee (MSSC) had a productive though challenging year. In addition to the work of selecting the incoming class, the committee confronted a change in the chairperson during the interview season. The retirement of Dr. John Ackerman, who had provided unique leadership for a number of years, necessitated extra commitment and work by the faculty committee members to facilitate my assuming the chair. The skill of Mr. Larkin and his staff helped make the transition as smooth as possible. I particularly wish to acknowledge the unfailing support of Dr. Keith Pennypacker, last year's vice-chair. I conservatively estimate that Dr. Pennypacker devoted approximately 240 hours of time to MSSC activities, including 25 applicant interviews. Such an effort must not go unrecognized, and the College of Medicine owes him a debt of gratitude.

The MSSC accepted our largest incoming medical class this year—115. The committee is proud of our efforts to enhance diversity, with this class having the greatest number of minority students in USF's history. The work of Dr. Ted Williams and his staff has been essential in enhancing our diversity. Three hundred and sixty-six students were interviewed during this past year, 185 were accepted to fill the class of 115. I estimate that 1215 faculty hours were used for the committee meetings and approximately 350 faculty hours were used for interviews. Clearly the important work of the MSSC requires an enormous use of faculty resource that should be recognized by the faculty at large and the leadership of the College of Medicine and the University. One hundred and fifty-eight faculty members participated in the interview process; but 21 faculty members performed almost half of all the interviews. The committee needs additional faculty members to help with interviews. Please answer the call.

During the 2002-2003 academic year, a medical honors program has been implemented allowing promising, in-coming freshmen at the University of South Florida or the University of Central Florida to apply for acceptance to medical school at the time of matriculation. The MSSC has worked hard to ensure that the application process for these entering freshmen is meaningful, fair and controlled by the faculty of the College of Medicine. This is a work in progress and will potentially facilitate the retention at the USF College of Medicine of some of the brightest students of USF and UCF undergraduate colleges. This program permits the student to complete an undergraduate degree and medical degree in 7 years.

I thank the faculty, Dr. Daugherty and Dr. Specter for supporting the MSSC and our essential mission. We have plans to implement a web-based system this year that will facilitate interviews and review of applicants by the committee. The MSSC looks forward to more vigorous faculty support during the coming application season for the class entering in 2004.

Respectfully submitted,
Dennis K. Ledford, M.D.
Chair, Medical Student Selection Committee