



November 6, 2003

Deborah C. Roth, D.O.
Chair, Committee on Curriculum
Department of Psychiatry
MDC 014

Dear Dr. Roth:

Modifications of the curricular programs for years one and two are now well underway. These modifications have been healthy for our educational program, and our students are already benefiting from the innovations that have been embraced. Thanks are due to you and the Curriculum Committee for your efforts over the last several years in behalf of curricular reform.

Since we are well into the implementation phase for curricular modification in the first two years of the medical education program, the time has come to address the third and fourth year. It is suggested that we proceed to plan a creative, novel, and innovative program within the following parameters:

- The entirety of the third and fourth year of the program will be addressed.
- USFCOM's educational objectives and competencies must be carefully implemented through the planned educational program, with necessary inclusion of methodologies to measure student mastery of learning objectives and competencies and they must be measurable.
- Two monographs must be carefully studied, with the issues raised therein addressed within the new plan.
 - Nutter D, Whitcomb M. *The AAMC Project on the Clinical Education of Medical Students*.
 - Weinberger S, Whitcomb M. *The Clinical Education of Medical Students: Report on the Millennium Conferences I & II*.
- The LCME document *Standards for Accreditation of Medical Education Programs Leading the MD Degree* must be reviewed to assure that the new program that is created is in compliance with LCME standards.
- The third year of the program will include no less than 6 months of an integrated, contiguous ambulatory educational experience.

Vice President for Health Sciences, Dean of the College of Medicine

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Small group working committees of interested/concerned faculty and leaders should be appointed and charged as defined above. Each should be given a 3-month time line to develop a proposal for a modified educational program. After this period of time, there should be a curricular retreat, inviting all groups (the number is not defined) to present to one another *and the Curriculum Committee* for review, deliberation, and discussion. The assembled group will have the responsibility to choose the best elements from all of the proposals, collaboratively refine the ideas, and develop consensus. It is intended that the outcome of this retreat will be a series of recommendations that address the issues noted above, and that these recommendations will form the basis of a modified educational program.

At this time the administrative authority and responsibility for organizing this process is assigned to Dr. Wallach, Associate Dean for Curriculum and Medical Education. As previously described, the Curriculum Committee plays a very significant role in advising the Dean/Interim Dean with recommendations for a new curricular program. Please convey my thanks to the committee for the hard work that will be expended in the creation and implementation of this program.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Belsole, M.D.
Vice President, Health Sciences
Dean, College of Medicine

c: John S. Curran, M.D.
Paul M. Wallach, M.D.