

Annual Report of the USF Morsani College of Medicine Curriculum Committee

September 2011-August 2012

The Curriculum Committee advises, reviews, and makes recommendations to the Dean on program curricula leading to the MD degree (CORE and SELECT programs) and the DPT degree (principally relating to the inter-professional Year 1 curriculum). Three working subcommittees are charged with; 1) reviewing individual courses and clerkships, 2) assessing curricular integration (both vertical and horizontal), and 3) reviewing processes of program outcome assessment. The following summarizes this year's Committee actions.

1. Review of individual Courses and Clerkships

Pre-Clerkship Courses - Individual courses reviewed this year focused on the new interdisciplinary and integrated Year 1 courses which were introduced in AY 2010-11. The following were evaluated;

- BMS 6640 Medical Sciences 1 – Core Principles and the Musculoskeletal System
- BMS 6641 Medical Sciences 2 – Neurological Systems
- BMS 6633 Medical Sciences 3 – Cardiopulmonary Systems
- BCC 6173 Introduction to Clerkships (I2C)
- BMS 6920 Colloquium I/II
- BMS 6825 Doctoring I
- BMS 6836 Evidence-Based Clinical Reasoning (EBCR) I

In general, all Year 1 courses received positive evaluations with reviewer feedback directed back to the Course Directors for follow-up. A topic consistently identified as an area requiring more attention were the large-group active learning sessions, which were new to several of the teaching faculty. Faculty development sessions were proposed to improve the delivery of these sessions across the Year 1 curriculum.

Clerkships – In response to a Year 3 taskforce assessment and its recommendations, the Committee voted in favor of changing *BCC 7114 Urgent and Emergent Care* from a required Year 3 clerkship to a selective clerkship offered in Years 3 and 4. The Committee's recommendation was subsequently approved by the Dean to be implemented in AY 2012-13. Emergency Medicine, Internal Medicine, and Neurology subsequently added *BCC 7114 Urgent and Emergent Care* as a requirement for their 4th year career tracks.

Two required Clerkships (BCC 7154 Neuropsychiatry, and BCC 7144 Inpatient Medicine and Pediatrics) were evaluated by external reviewers invited by the Office of Educational Affairs (OEA). The Executive Summaries with recommendations from the external reviewers were discussed and evaluated by the Committee. The specific recommendations for each will be addressed by the Clerkship Directors, the corresponding Departmental Chairs, the OEA administration, and the Dean. Restructuring the Year 3 Clerkships to improve clerkship integration and alignment with the LVHN curriculum (see below) was also discussed and postponed pending additional input from a planned external review of the Primary Care clerkship in Sept 2012.

2. Assessing curricular integration.

Year 1 Anatomy Lab Taskforce – The Committee reviewed and discussed the Executive Summary of the taskforce that evaluated the Year 1 cadaver labs and their recommendations to further integrate the labs across disciplines and increase laboratory active learning time (while reducing anatomy lecture time). Overall teaching time would remain neutral. A pilot of the new interdisciplinary lab was planned for Course 4 by Dr. Johnson and would be evaluated at the conclusion of Course 4.

Year 3 Curriculum at LVHN – The Committee voted in favor of the LVHN Year 3 Curricular framework presented by Dr. Otsuki in February. The curricular framework consists of four 12-week ‘clusters’ (Surgery, Medicine, Maternal-Peds, Neuro-Psych), each divided into four 3-week ‘blocks’ that alternate from inpatient to ambulatory experiences across the entire 48-week year. The Committee’s recommendation was subsequently approved by the Dean. Final approval of SELECT year 3 courses is expected in late fall. There was both faculty and student support to explore ways to better align the Year 3 clerkship curriculum in Tampa with the new LVHN curricular framework. A workgroup will be assembled in the Fall 2012 to begin this process, utilizing the input from the external clerkship reviews (see above).

Introduction of ‘Limiting Conflicts of Interest’ in Ethics – The new USF Regulation on “Limiting Conflicts of Interest in Interactions with the Pharmaceutical, Medical Device, and Biotechnology Industries” (USF9.019) stipulates the Committee “shall ensure that COM medical students are trained to understand the importance of federal, state, and institutional conflict of interest laws, rules, policies and procedures, and how Industry promotion can influence clinical judgment”. The Committee identified the ethics delivery in Doctoring I and II as the appropriate sites to introduce this new curricular content. The corresponding course directors will explore and implement appropriate learning modules that address this new curriculum requirement.

‘Return to Basic Science’ in Year 4 - To address the new requirement that all 4th Year Career Tracks have a basic science course component, the Committee voted in favor of 12 new basic science course proposals received from the faculty. Several of the 4th year Track Directors however did not find one of these appropriate to implement as a requirement for AY 2012/13. Five of the 14 career tracks did commit to implement a basic science course requirement for AY 2012-13 (neurosurgery, ob/gyn, ophthalmology, orthopedics, psychiatry), and 6 tracks made ‘strong recommendations’ for selected basic science courses. Additional basic science course proposals from the faculty will be sought next year, and students in all 14 tracks will be required to choose a basic science course to fulfill this requirement in AY 2013-14.

3. Reviewing processes of program outcome assessment.

Preparation for the USMLE Step I – A higher than normal failure rate for first-time Step I exam takers this year provoked an assessment of current processes in place for student preparation and success on this benchmark exam at the end of Year 2. Following input from the Pre-Clerkship leadership, the Committee voted in favor of changing the USMLE Comprehensive Basic Science Exam (CBSE) from an optional offering at the end of Year 2 courses, to a mandatory requirement for AY 2013. Other identified miscommunications on study strategies and expectations would also be addressed for the coming year. Exploring additional opportunities where more comprehensive assessments can be introduced into the pre-clerkship curriculum was also encouraged.

Year 3 grading changes - The Year 3/4 grading system implemented for the first time in AY 2011-12 (Honors, Pass, Fail), which eliminated the previous PC grade (pass with commendation), was met with significant concern from the MSIII’s and how the loss of the PC grade would impact their competitiveness for different residency programs. In response, a new “Commendation in Clinical Excellence” was created to be awarded to students who receive top ratings (via narrative evaluations) from their clerkship instructors. The new commendation is independent of the Honors grade which is linked to USMLE exam performance, and will be mentioned in the student’s Medical School Performance Evaluation (Dean’s letter) that goes out to residency program directors. Thirty students from the Class of 2013 were recipients of this new recognition.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chair of the MCOM Curriculum Committee