

## **Annual Report of the USF College of Medicine Committee on Curriculum September 2009-August 2010**

The Committee on Curriculum is responsible for the review and evaluation of the curriculum leading to the MD and DPT degrees.

### **Regarding unresolved issues from the prior year:**

The Committee has worked to address LCME citations from the site visit, and the Office of Educational Affairs submitted a report delineating the changes made. A letter of response was received this year, stating that the Committee has made sufficient improvements in its oversight of the curriculum.

The LCME has also been requiring further reductions in contact hours in the first two years of the curriculum. As a result, this year, the second year course instructors made reductions in contact hours. The most recent letter from the LCME has noted that USF is now in compliance with this requirement, but that continued monitoring in this area will be necessary.

### **Course Reviews:**

The Committee reviewed the following courses this year: Physical Diagnosis I and II, Longitudinal Clinical Experience I and II, Evidence-Based Clinical Practice, Principles of Medical Immunology and Infectious Diseases, Colloquium, and Acting Internships.

The Course Review Sub-Committee also revised the summary and review forms to improve the reporting process for course and clerkship directors.

After reviewing the clinical courses for years one and two, the Committee convened a workgroup to improve the delivery of clinical education in these years. A separate workgroup was also created to examine the delivery of clinical education in years 3 and 4. Both of these workgroups consisted of Committee members as well as general faculty members. Both workgroups met with students and course/clerkship directors, to get a sense of the positive and negative aspects of the courses and to solicit thoughts regarding future directions. In addition, the year 3/4 workgroup met with department chairs to obtain their advice. After the workgroups completed their reviews, a mini-retreat was held and the Committee approved their recommended changes, which are delineated below.

### **Curriculum Improvements:**

Several significant curricular changes were approved this year, to become effective for academic year 2010-2011. These include:

1. Year 1 revitalization – In order to enhance integration among courses and remove unplanned redundancy, the structure of year 1 was changed. In the new structure, 4 courses will occur in succession, each lasting about approximately 8-10 weeks. Each course incorporates all of the traditional courses that previously spanned the entire year. Students receive a grade after each course, and can remediate, if necessary, prior to starting the subsequent course. Students will be tracked for competency in the traditional basic science disciplines across the entire year.
2. Integrated neuroscience curriculum – a plan for neuroscience education that is well-defined and targeted toward appropriate learner levels across the four years was

approved. Contact hours were shifted appropriately to accommodate the idea format in the first two years.

3. Colloquium, a course offered in year 2, was changed to selective status, in order to incorporate time for scholarly concentrations. In this new format, students involved in scholarly concentrations will utilize the allotted curricular time to participate in their concentration groups. Students not involved in the scholarly concentrations are to participate in a Colloquium of their choice.
4. Year 3 changes –
  - a. Elective opportunity - the option for students to defer their emergency medicine clerkship until 4<sup>th</sup> year in order to participate in a one-month elective was created for students who desire this opportunity.
  - b. Addition of trauma experience to the Emergent & Urgent Care Clerkship.
  - c. Changes to the structure of the Neuropsychiatry clerkship were made in order to improve integration of the specialties. In addition, a clinical skills practice exam was created to improve students' interviewing and examination skills; and changes were made to the exam offerings to better reflect course content.
5. Year 4 changes - the Oncology clerkship was changed to elective status, with the most vital components of the course moved to other required courses in order to ensure all students receive those experiences.
6. Grading rubric changes: Clinical Problem Solving grading was changed to Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory. The year 3/4 clerkships' grading scales were changed to conform with grading processes in years 1 and 2 (+/- system was removed).

For academic year 2010-2011:

A new Acting Internship in Obstetrics & Gynecology was recommended in order to provide another option for 4<sup>th</sup> year students. In addition, recommendations were made to current Acting Internships to improve objectives and requirements and make them more consistent across the courses.

Finally, the Committee approved an initial proposal containing objectives and competencies for the SELECT program, with the understanding that the complete curriculum will be presented for approval at a later date.

The annual retreat will be held August 12. The Committee will review the progress from the year and set goals for 2010-2011.