

DATE: April 18, 2011

TO: Class of 2012

FROM: Erica Nelson, MD, Chair
Linda Morrison, MSW, Administrative Director
Clinical Competency Examination (CCX) Committee

RE: Senior Clinical Competency Examination for Class of 2012

The Senior Clinical Competency Examination (SCCX) is a comprehensive 14-patient multidisciplinary clinical practice examination. Its purpose is to provide faculty and students with a standardized measure of student competence and readiness for graduate medical education as well as to provide feedback about the effectiveness of the curriculum.

The CCX Committee, composed primarily of faculty from clinical departments, selects all SCCX case problems from Appendix A (*Must See* objectives) of the SIU School of Medicine Graduation Objectives. The SIUSOM Objectives, along with the Honor Code and other information, can be found on the CCX Assessment website at http://www.siumed.edu/oec/html/year_41.html. SCCX cases are selected to cover the range of patients, experiences and expectations to which you have been exposed during the first three years of medical school. Each SCCX case is based on a real patient, developed by faculty, and approved by the CCX Committee before it is used.

The SCCX will take two full days to complete and will include seven cases each day, each beginning with a standardized patient (SP) encounter. The SPs will complete H&P checklists and Patient Satisfaction rating scales, and will write comments about your interpersonal and communication skills.

- In the first ten cases, a 20-minute SP encounter will be followed a 45 minute CCX computer examination during which you will list findings, hypotheses, labs/interpretation, diagnosis, diagnosis justification, problem list, and management for the patient. **Diagnosis Justification** instructions will be similar to what you had in Y2 and Y3: *Please explain your thought processes in getting to the final diagnosis: i.e, how you used the data you collected from the patient (history and physical) and from laboratory work to move from your initial differential diagnoses to your final diagnosis. Please include both positive and negative findings in this discussion. Please be thorough.* **The scoring form for Diagnosis Justification will be on the CCX Assessments website.**
- The last four cases will be administered like the USMLE, Step 2 Clinical Skills exam with 15-minute SP encounters followed by 10-minutes for writing patient notes. The patient notes will include history findings, physical exam findings, differential diagnoses and diagnostic work-up. (See the *CCX_Assessments* website for the form used.) In order to simulate USMLE conditions, students will be split into two groups, with each group completing the four cases in a two-hour period.

Our curriculum is designed to prepare you for the SCCX, but we recommend that you invest additional preparation time as needed to ensure you are competent in the following areas:

- You should be able to perform **all components of the Head to Toe Physical Exam**.
- You should know **what questions and what physical exam are needed for all complaints** listed in the Objectives for Graduation, Appendix A.
- You should be able to **generate a thorough differential diagnosis and write basic**

management orders for all complaints listed in Appendix A.

- You should be able to **justify your final diagnosis** clearly and thoroughly using your findings and lab results and explain why *other* hypotheses on your differential were ruled out.

Since we are attempting to evaluate your preparedness for residency, the best approach for a successful SCCX is to work up the SPs as if they were your actual patients. If you want extra practice using the CCX program, the J_Keller CCX case will be available on the computers in the OEC Computer Lab at 801 N. Rutledge (just type in a name: no records will be kept.)

The SCCX will be administered six times over a three-week period (**July 19 to August 5**), with 12 students in each group. The school expects that you will maintain strict confidentiality about the exam. The SCCX is a **secure examination** and is protected by the **SIU School of Medicine Secure Examination Policy**. Sharing information about or having unauthorized knowledge about the exam (or its cases) constitutes a violation of that policy and will be considered a serious breach of professional conduct that will be immediately dealt with in accordance with school policies. You will sign an oath of confidentiality before you begin the SCCX.

SCCX results are reported to the Student Progress Committee (SPC) in September with the following recommendations:

- **Students who fail the SCCX** will be recommended to take the 4-week *Clinical Reasoning* elective course. It will be given **October 24 through November 18, 2011**. It would be prudent to keep this month flexible in your schedule.
- **Students who fail Patient Satisfaction** will be recommended to take the 1-week *Enhancing Communication in the Physician/Patient Relationship* elective course, to be scheduled individually with the Year 3 and Year 4 Registrar.

A **SCCX Orientation** session will be held on Thursday, **July 14** to discuss SCCX expectations and plans in more detail. **It is planned for 4:30 PM in the West Auditorium**. The session powerpoint slides will be posted on the CCX Assessments website (along with other pertinent information about the exam) for those unable to attend. **Be sure to review the SCCX instructions posted on the website before you come to take your examination.**

Schedule changes: **SCCX group assignments are attached**. If you want to be reassigned, you must find a student in the group you want to move into who is *willing and able* to switch with you. Then BOTH of you must e-mail Linda Morrison to request reassignment. **We will not accept schedule changes after July 1.**

Your daily schedules will be available on the CCX Assessments website in early July. Please arrive at the PDL ten minutes before you are scheduled to begin. If you have questions, you may contact:

- Dr. Nelson at enelson@siumed.edu
- Linda Morrison at lmorrison@siumed.edu or at 545-4970

C: Erik Constance, MD, Associate Dean for Student Affairs
Cherie Forsyth, Year 3 and Year 4 Registrar
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Tracy Lower, MD, Year 4 Director
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