

Year 2 Curriculum Committee
Friday, March 28, 2008
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Minutes

Present:

Frank Aguirre, MD
Mary Aiello, MA, Staff
Tyler Allison, Class of 2010,
for Kerri Lockhart, Class of 2010
Amy Arai, PhD
Peter Borgia, PhD, Year 2 Director
George Dunaway, PhD
M. Steve Evans, MD, MS
Rhona Kelley, MS

Debra Klamen, MD, MHPE
Fritz Lower, MD
John Murphy, MD
Nicole Roberts, PhD
Gary Rull, MD
Stacie Skelton for Andrew Sherrick, MD
Tracey Smith, APRN, BS
Don Torry, PhD
Steven Verhulst, PhD

Absent:

M. Rebecca Hoffman, MD
Carolyn Holmes, RN, MSN
Janak Koirala, MD
Karen Reynolds, RN, MS
Sandra Shea, PhD
Shelley Tischkau, PhD
MS Brenda Yale, MS, RN

Guest:

Jean Afflerbach, MS, MBA
Brian Moore, MD
Louis Premkumar, PhD

1. Approval of minutes

The minutes from the January 25, 2008 meeting of the Year 2 Curriculum Committee (Y2CC) were approved as written.

2. Announcements

On April 28, 2008 Nicole Roberts, PhD, Associate Director for the Academy in Scholarship in Education, along with Reed Williams, PhD and Cathy Schwind, RN, MS, from SIU School of Medicine, Department of Surgery will present from 4:30 pm until 5:30 pm in the Dirksen Conference Room/4th Floor in the 801 Building with VC connection to Lindegren 310. Topic of the presentation will address "The Nature of General Surgery Resident Problems".

On May 16, 2008 the Academy for Scholarship in Education, co-sponsored with Pediatric's is offering a half day workshop from 9:30 am until 12:30 pm in the SCLP Conference Room at 825 N. Rutledge, Rm 3690. Lunch will be provided. Presentation will be given by Dr. Gregory Northcraft, Professor of Business Administration and Harry J. Gray Professor of Executive Leadership at UIUC on the topic of "Negotiation

and Conflict Management." Registration is not yet open, but will be required as space is limited.

On May 19, 2009 Geoff Norman, PhD, Assistant Dean PERD, Professor in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology & Biostatistics at McMaster University will present at two different times. First presentation will take place at 8:00 am in the Telehealth Conference Room/1252 at 913 N. Rutledge with VC to Lindegren 310. The topic is "Principles of E-Learning: Better Design for E-Instruction". The second presentation will take place at noon in the Dirksen Conference Room at 801 N. Rutledge, 4th Floor in the 801 Building with VC connection to Wheeler 104. The topic is "Cognitive Perspective On How People Learn."

Dr. Klamen is putting together Y2 needs for clinical teaching with the help of nurse educators. The goal is to lay out the clinical needs for teaching throughout the year. It is hoped all clinical activities for the upcoming academic year will be scheduled at the start of the year. It is going well so far.

Eight Japanese students are here participating in the Y2 curriculum for three weeks. They are midway through their stay.

Dr. Borgia announced that Dr. Premkumar will be the basic science co-director for Circulation, Renal, Respiratory (CRR) unit in the 2008-2009 academic year. Dr. Lower will remain as the primary Pathologist for the unit.

3. Student Report

Tyler Allison, Class of 2010 for Kerri Lockhart announced that students liked seeing their scores immediately after the MCQ exam. There is one concern not as many students showed up for the exam review session. Y2CC will extend the policy for the ERG Unit. There is no way to determine which students decided to view their preliminary exam score.

Mr. Allison reported on the Neuromuscular Behavior (NMB) Self Assessment Questions (SAQs). If there was a problem with an SAQ, about 50% of those problem SAQs were fixed immediately.

4. Endocrine, Reproduction, Gastrointestinal (ERG) Report

Dr. Dunaway queried the tutors and everything is progressing smoothly.

5. Neuromuscular Behavior (NMB) Unit

Dr. Arai thanked all for their help with the unit. Students performed well on both the MCQ exam and the clinical portions of the exams. She distributed handouts with student performance in NMB for this year and past years. Some student comments indicate the exam was fairly easy. Test reliability was almost 0.90. It appears that senior faculty have the easiest questions and junior faculty have the most challenging questions. A member wondered whether, given the high MCQ score mean, there is a compression at the top end of the grade distribution. Several explanations for the high mean were discussed. As the questions have become clearer, more board format questions, those questions have become easier to understand. Many questions are pure recall in nature and faculty need to develop

more integrated questions that require knowledge, analysis and judgment. It is easy to relatively easy to write easy questions and very difficult questions. Yet, it is difficult to write discriminating questions. The distracters are the most difficult part to write in a question.

The Neuro Forum, mirrored after Carbondale's Neuro Forum, was used in NMB on Blackboard. The main issue with the forum was faculty monitoring. Dr. Arai monitored it almost daily and she was pleased to see faculty participation, particularly Dr. Moore. Many of the SAQs were discussed on the forum. Dr. Arai monitored the number of students who accessed the forum throughout the unit. Around the 8th week of the unit, the number of students accessing the forum went up dramatically.

Dr. Murphy asked Jean Afflerbach how often the SAQs were miskeyed. Dr. Borgia commented that historically, the problem questions and miskeyed questions are the result of faculty errors and not computer problems. Not surprisingly, students are frustrated by such questions and spend an inordinate amount of time on the poor or incorrectly keyed SAQs.

The committee discussed the exercise conducted in Dr. Moore's tutor group, Group J, where he had students create SAQs. Many questions of the questions generated had justifications written with them. The possibility of using these to build up the SAQ bank was discussed. Dr. Murphy thinks that this would be a good intellectual activity and encouraged the committee to continue with its development. Dr. Borgia thinks this will this suggestion would take a lot of organization. He suggests running a pilot in one unit and that it would be desirable if all tutors in the unit would participate. Dr. Borgia suspects there may be some tutors who would agree but that others might not.

Dr Rull reported that student performance in NMB clinical exams was average to above average. No one from a clinical standpoint received a grade of "Concerns." For the first time in many years, the musculoskeletal instruction and student assessment this year went well and without problems. Dr Rull gave kudos to Dr. Gabriel and his group for their efforts. Dr. Rull reported this is a very typical class. There have been some issues with scheduling so there has been a lot of "hand holding".

6. Cardiovascular, Renal, Respiratory (CRR) Unit Feedback

Dr. Lower summarized the CRR end of unit student feedback. The unit received a record number of verbal comments. Several students commented that they had difficulty scheduling time with their clinical mentors. Some students made negative comments concerning the CAM sessions. The CRR unit directors are addressing these issues. Dr Rull mentioned that he feels this is a transitional period for CAM sessions. The CAM sessions were added due to the lack of mentors. Objectives for the CAM session are set dependent on the unit. A lot of negative feedback, in part, may be due to the large size of the groups. Doctoring will make efforts to reduce the CAM group size by half. In the past, Doctoring relied on community physicians to help with mentoring. With the increased need and increased demands on physicians'

clinics, Doctoring developed the CAM sessions. Dr. Rull thinks this may get worse before it gets better.

In regards to CRR SAQs, a lot has been done to “beef up” the questions, specifically pharmacology. The student reviews are more mixed than in the past. In the past, the comments about SAQs were mainly negative. Some liked the pathology SAQs and some preferred the pharmacology SAQs. Getting feedback from the students is helpful. Overall, Dr Lower believes that the feedback represents improvement concerning the SAQs.

There were a lot of comments about the blood banking resource session. Dr. Marshall presents a lot of material in the session. Dr. Lower and Dr. Marshall will work together to pare down the presentation. Dr. Lower thinks this session is in the wrong place and would be better placed in a transition place such when the students are going from Y2 to Y3.

There were several comments about the last minute addition of a required session before the Thanksgiving holiday. Next year an activity on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving will be scheduled well ahead of time.

This year CRR faculty added a session on modalities of genetics testing. Some students commented that they were insulted by the session. Dr. Lower will try and improve the science sessions and not make it so basic.

Another topic, ophthalmology, received a lot of comments. Dr. Lower would like to discuss whether ophthalmology should be in CRR or NMB. Can NMB accommodate ophthalmology? Dr. Borgia suggested CRR and NMB discuss the issue. Dr. Arai went to the ophthalmology session in NMB and discovered a lot vasculature was discussed however, a lot of neurology is covered in sessions offered in CRR. There was a CAM session in NMB on the fundusoscopic exam. Dr. Arai commented students were very active and participated in this session. Dr. Kwedar did most of the sessions this year. Dr. Borgia encouraged Doctoring, CRR and NMB discuss the topic and to make a recommendation the Y2CC at a future meeting.

Dr Lower mentioned that the CRR tutors did a very good job this year and received very high ratings.

7. NBME Step 1 Exam Update

Dr. Dunaway summarized the article that was distributed to Y2CC concerning the USMLE, Step 1 Exam. The proposed elimination of the USMLE, Step 1 Exam has created quite a bit of controversy. It appears we still do not know what is going to happen. Dr. Borgia responded that the proposal to eliminate the Step 1 exam has both positive and negative aspects.

8. Adjournment

The Y2CC adjourned at 8:43 a.m.