



SIU School of Medicine receives full accreditation

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Photograph by
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In January, a site visit team of the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) toured SIU School of Medicine evaluating the School's undergraduate medical educational program. They were very impressed. So impressed, the School received full, unconditional reaccreditation of the M.D. program for the maximum number of eight years. The School was found to be in compliance with all LCME standards, with no citation of any deficiency — a notable distinction. The School has been fully accredited since 1972.

The LCME is the accrediting body for medical education leading to the M.D. degree in the United States. The accreditation process evaluates quality and determines whether the programs measure up to approved standards for function, structure and performance. Schools receiving federal grants for medical education and federal loan programs must have accreditation. The accreditation makes students



and graduates eligible to take licensing examinations and enter approved residency programs. The LCME's site visit affirmed the School's internal assessment.

In preparation for the LCME evaluation, an internal review team composed of SIU School of Medicine faculty, students, and administrators spent two years performing an in-depth analysis of the medical school's compliance with LCME's standards.

In the self-study, this team noted the strengths of the School's humanities and health policy curricula, faculty mentoring of students, "state-of-the-art" evaluation methodologies, and ongoing commitment to diversity. This team also noted that "the medical school maintains an effective balance among its education, service and research missions, and allocates its resources accordingly."

"Hundreds of dedicated people at this medical school work very hard to make sure we offer our medical students the best training possible, so this official endorsement of our efforts that comes with this accreditation is greatly appreciated," says J. Kevin Dorsey, M.D., Ph.D., dean and provost of the medical school. "I'm especially pleased that the report acknowledges the national prominence of our problem-based learning curriculum and the supportive relationship we have with our two teaching hospitals in Springfield, Memorial and St. John's."

In the LCME's letter notifying the School of its reaccreditation, Robert H. Eaglen, Ph.D., Interim LCME Secretary, cited numerous strengths of SIU School of Medicine, including five standout attributes:

1. The LCME team praised "the

School's ongoing commitment to excellence in medical education, comprehensive strategic planning and rapid growth in the clinical practice plan."

2. The LCME noted the School's national recognition for its hallmark approach to medical education, problem-based learning, and also the philosophy of self-directed education of its students as well as the innovative methods of student assessment, directed by the leadership of the School's administration. Dr. Eaglen characterized this approach as "cohesive and innovative."

3. Nurse educators were found to be a great asset in educational delivery, and the program was cited as "a unique model for medical student education that enhances the quality of learning"

4. The nationally recognized Medical/Dental Education Preparatory Program (MEDPREP) — a two-year, post-baccalaureate curriculum for students entering health professions— was considered "an exemplary initiative for recruitment and retention of students from diverse backgrounds." The program has graduated more than 1,100 students.

5. Finally, the LCME noted the cooperative relationship among SIU School of Medicine and the two teaching hospitals in Springfield, Memorial Medical Center and St. John's Hospital, calling this partnership an "extraordinary environment for learning and institutional development."

"I am very proud of Dr. Dorsey, the faculty, staff and students who have earned this great distinction for our medical school," said SIU Carbondale Chancellor Fernando M. Treviño in a press release. "Earning the maximum accreditation demonstrates the very high caliber of the research, education and patient and community service they perform daily. I am thankful for their efforts and most appreciative of this distinction they have earned for the University." ●●●