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eCHECK-UP

An electronic newsletter for clinical faculty of The Commonwealth Medical College

Fall 2012

TCMC Launches Physician Recognition Program



TCMC is pleased to announce the creation of a recognition program for all clinical faculty as a way to acknowledge the time and effort spent educating our students. The Academy of Clinical Educators, or ACE program, will be launched at the Regional Clinical Faculty Meetings in October. All three meetings will feature a reception with new Dean and President, Steven J. Scheinman, MD. Physicians will be inducted into the program based on appointment and active participation with the designation of "Member" and will receive a framed certificate at the meeting honoring their dedication to the students and their affiliation with TCMC.

Additional levels of recognition may be obtained through a self-nomination process, which will include completing an application and submitting an updated CV. Higher levels of advancement include the designations "Fellow" and "Master" to reflect excellence for the teaching physician. According to Gerald Tracy, MD, associate dean for north regional campus development, who has diligently facilitated the formation of the program, "ACE is a way to celebrate the well-deserved recognition of our area physicians for their impact on medical education in the communities in which we serve. We highly encourage nominations for advancement in the program."

An application review process will take place annually beginning in the spring of 2013, followed by a recognition event in all regions. More details on the ACE program will be included in the winter edition of eCHECK-UP. For more information, or to obtain an ACE application, contact Chris Carroll, manager of regional affairs, at ccarroll@tcmedc.org or call 570.504.9678.

Students Rank Satisfaction Exceptionally High

Feedback from final student evaluations of preceptors from the end of third year rotations in 2011-2012 resulted in a satisfaction rate of over 99% in all six major disciplines. Thank you to all clinical faculty for providing TCMC students with positive learning experiences particularly throughout their third and fourth years of study. "It is very gratifying to know that the students are getting a quality education. This exceptionally high ranking is a credit to everyone involved," said Gerald Tracy, MD, associate dean for north regional campus development.

In addition, we'd like to thank the primary care physicians who serve as Continuity Mentors to students in the first and second year. The program has experienced virtually no attrition over the last three years.

TCMC Datebook

Save the date for these upcoming events:

2012-2013 Regional Faculty Development Meetings

North

All Meetings @ TCMC MSB Auditorium
October 1st, January 15th, May 2nd

South

All Meetings @ The Woodlands
October 16th, January 17th, April 30th

West

All Meetings @ DiSalvo's Restaurant
October 3rd, January 23rd, May 1st

2012 Regional Practice Manager/Office Representative Meetings

All Meetings at 8:00 AM - Location TBA
Encourage Leadership Staff to Attend

North - October 10th

West - October 11th

South - October 23rd

Gala 2012

October 12th, 6:30 PM @ The Woodlands
\$150 per person. To register, visit:
www.thecommonwealthmedical.com/gala

CME Credit Opportunity

Health Disparities, Cultural Competency & Implications for Quality Care

w/ Robert Like, MD,

from Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
November 13th, Noon-1:00 PM

TCMC MSB Auditorium, North Campus
(Videoconference @ South & West Campuses)

Inaugural Commencement

May 11th, 2013

The Commonwealth Medical College

Department of Faculty Affairs & Faculty Development



Pictured left to right: Andrea DiMattia, Mary Roman, Erica Townsend, JoAnn Babish, and Chris Carroll.

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Chris Carroll, at CCarroll@tcmedc.org*

TCMC is committed to non-discrimination in all
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eCHECK-IN

From the North

All three regions are planning their fall volunteer faculty meetings. These are our major contact point with our volunteer physicians and are usually well attended. This fall meeting will feature two new items: 1) a reception to introduce the new Dean to the faculty, and 2) the launch of our Academy of Clinical Educators (ACE), which has been set up to thank, retain and recruit volunteer faculty. All volunteers will be eligible for admission as members based on appointment and active participation, and will receive a signed certificate from the school. The process for advancing in grade from member to master or fellow will be explained. The hope is to develop this entity over time so as to be a major source of pride to the volunteers and encourage input from this essential group to better execute our teaching mission.

Special recognition to the physician volunteers in our enormous admissions efforts. We have already started interviewing the first wave of students for the augmented class of 2017, which is planned to go from 65 to 100 students. And special thanks to the Lackawanna County Medical Society for their continued annual support to our student scholarship fund.

*~ Dr. Gerald Tracy,
Associate Dean for North Regional Campus Development*

From the South

Our students are in full swing with their education and clinical experiences. The start-up of this clinical year has been nearly flawless for our students due to the outstanding efforts of our South campus regional team.

The South campus by its mere geography, lends itself to expansion by developing partnerships with hospitals in our region's five county area, allowing us to tap into the wealth of clinical preceptors available to mentor our students. I have actively begun that process with the assistance of Drs. Valerie Weber and Maurice Clifton.

Finally, we are looking forward to the arrival of the first and second year students in October for their first community week experience and will actively work to satisfy their thirst for clinical experience.

*~ Dr. Michael Ferraro,
Associate Dean for South Regional Campus Development*

From the West

It is remarkable to think that every young baseball player around the world dreams of coming to Williamsport in late August for the Little League World Series! We in north-central PA are not used to thinking of our region as a world renowned destination, but this is true every year in the late summer! Our Class of 2014 West Regional Campus students organized a picnic at the Hiawatha Park and a visit to Lamade Stadium on Saturday, August 18th, and a good time was had by all.

But, to get back to medical education, our students continue to encounter many patients in their weekly precepting sessions, and have been observing surgeries and other procedures in all healthcare venues. Some inpatient bursts have been completed and some students have already had experiences in the various ED's across our region. Our Friday group learning sessions continue to come along nicely. For more information on that aspect of the clinical curriculum, please see the feature article under Regional Affairs in this edition of eCHECK-UP.

*~ Dr. Keith Shenberger,
Associate Dean for West Regional Campus Development*

Regional Affairs

TCMC Uses Innovative Pedagogical Techniques in the Clinical Regional Campuses



The Winning Team: The Honey Badgers
From left, Ashley Leberfinger, Alex Harris,
Kevin Baker, and JT McGinn.

by Keith Shenberger, MD
Associate Dean for West Regional Campus Development

This is not your grandmother's med school! Those of us charged with delivering the clinical curriculum to our students have had to learn new and unique approaches to teaching the millennial generation. It is fairly clear that the simple provision of medical knowledge in a lecture format is not the best way to teach the skills needed to function as a modern physician. Information is not the issue as it was when I and many of you were in our training, for our students can access any information they want immediately and wirelessly with the click of a button.

The challenge is to teach analytic thinking and team-based problem solving, for these are the essential skills students need to develop to fulfill the role of physician in the modern healthcare delivery system. Physicians, with their superior knowledge, their extensive training, their professional comportment and their well-honed communication skills are clearly looked to as the leaders of the healthcare team.

Hence, a pedagogical technique known as Team Based Learning (TBL) is used extensively in their 2nd year MD curriculum and has recently been rolled out to the regions for clinical education in the 3rd year. The students answer some challenging multiple-choice questions at first individually and later by consensus after a discussion of the same questions in a small group of usually four students. The "correct" answers are then revealed in a plenary session and an active discussion (and sometimes dispute) ensues. Each group (some of them have rather colorful names) is then asked to prepare both a verbal and visual message to communicate and defend their answers. A winning team is chosen democratically.

As you might well deduce, these learning activities engage the students in a vastly different and more active way than a passive lecture format. They are expected to come to the session prepared with the assigned background reading, so the time together is spent interacting in the context of the clinical problem being addressed.

Those of us in the regions have been taught how to moderate this process and we have been doing it in the context of our Family Medicine and Internal Medicine curriculum on selected Friday afternoons. So far, so good. Fortunately the students are well acquainted with TBL. After some initial skepticism, we are recognizing that TBL is very valuable to develop just those skills required of our students to provide an excellent well-prepared physician workforce for a reformed healthcare system.

The Commonwealth Medical College

Department of Faculty Affairs
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Interprofessional Education and the NECPA-IPEC

by Edward F. Foote, PharmD
Visiting Professor, TCMC

Interprofessional Education (IPE) is defined as a learning process "when students from two or more professions learn about, from and with each other to enable effective collaboration and improve health outcomes." IPE is one of the new "hot topics" in medical education.

The original impetus for the Northeast/Central Pennsylvania Interprofessional Education Coalition (NECPA-IPEC) came from The Commonwealth Medical College. The NECPA-IPEC consists of 11 independent colleges and universities throughout Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Lycoming counties and the NEPA Area Health Education Center (AHEC). In addition to its regional, non-centralized model, the NECPA-IPEC is also unique in that it is inclusive of many more professions.

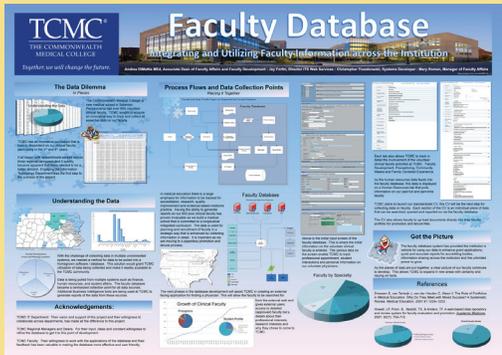
Since its inception three years ago, the NECPA-IPE has hosted a faculty development seminar (Spring 2009) and annual half-day collaborative care summits (Spring 2010-2012), which bring students together to lay foundations of interprofessional interactions and practice. At the most recent summit, in March of 2012, a record 556 learners and 127 facilitators from 11 institutions of higher education participated! There were 16 different professions represented at seven host campuses.

While the summits have been our most extensive and successful endeavors, we need to do more. Already, our coalition is working to expand into hosting more IPE simulations and most importantly, providing IPE experiences in the experiential setting.

The 2013 NECPA-IPEC Collaborative Care Summit is March 20th, 2013, from 4-7:30 PM at multiple sites simultaneously. If you would like to be on our email list and become more active in the IPEC, contact me at Edward.foote@wilkes.edu. We look forward to working with you as we promote this important endeavor!

The Commonwealth Medical College

Department of Faculty Affairs & Faculty Development



In August 2012, the topic "Faculty Database, Integrating and Utilizing Faculty Information Across the Institution" was presented in a poster session at the AAMC's Group of Faculty Affairs in Indianapolis. Some highlights of the poster session included areas of faculty development, growth of TCMC clinical faculty across the years, and specialties/sub-specialties across the regions of Pennsylvania.

Congratulations to our clinical faculty members who were elected/appointed to TCMC's Standing Committees of 2012-2013:

- Dr. Joseph Bannon
- Dr. Philip Benyo
- Dr. Eric Blomain
- Dr. Harmar Brereton
- Dr. Cynthia Cuyekeng-Jose
- Dr. Tom Martin
- Dr. Wasique Mirza
- Dr. Shubhra Shetty
- Dr. Deborah Spring
- Dr. Donald Stone
- Dr. Kathleen Tighe
- Dr. Brian Wilcox

Research Opportunities

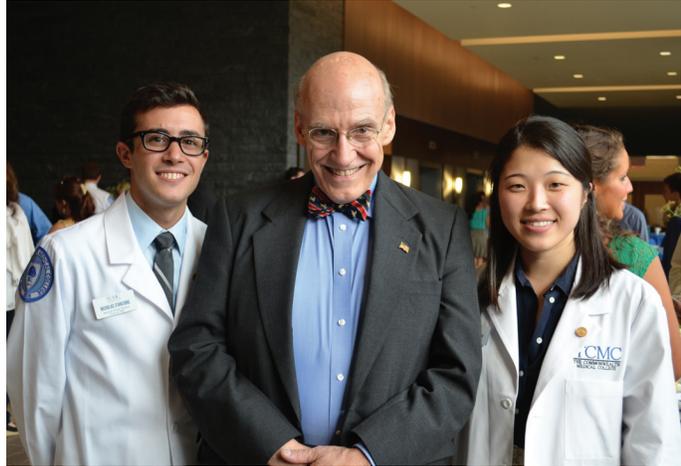
Have an idea for a research project and would like assistance from a medical student? Contact your regional education specialist.

Regional Education Specialists

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Student Happenings

TCMC Holds White Coat Ceremony



First year students Nicholas Stanzione and Melissa Pham pictured with Dr. Henry Yeager, Clinical Professor of Medicine at TCMC.

TCMC's White Coat Ceremony for the class of 2016 was held on August 10th at Scranton Preparatory School, followed by a reception in the Medical Sciences Building, where family and friends of the students could celebrate this notable achievement. Henry C. Yeager, MD, clinical professor of medicine at TCMC, served as the keynote speaker. The following is an excerpt from his address:

"I would like to enthusiastically offer my congratulations to the incoming students on reaching this step in your lives and in particular offer praise to you, your parents, teachers and those who have supported you. You, the class of 2016 have dreamed big, worked hard, and often struggled to get to this point and today you finally begin your medical education. As they say, from now on it is for keeps and this time it counts."

"This is an awesome responsibility and it is earned by and given only to a few - which now includes you. With it comes heavy obligation and commitment to interact with our peers and the rest of society with great integrity, honesty and humility. You are now being given that opportunity and throughout your medical school time and beyond (however long that may be) you must always strive to remain professional and continue your commitment to your patients and to lifelong learning."

2013 Admissions Season Underway

The 2012-2013 Admissions Season for the selection of the TCMC MD Class of 2017 is well underway. The Admissions Office is in full swing, processing applications for what will be TCMC's largest MD class of 100 students.

According to Dr. Linda Berardi-Demo, associate dean for admissions and student affairs, "We are looking forward to working with the class of 2017 to make their on-boarding experience as seamless as possible."

With the new admissions season comes the start of the MD interview season. The Admissions Office expects to interview approximately 600 students this year. Medical school interviews will be conducted on Mondays and Fridays until April 12, 2013. If you are interested in helping the Admissions Office in any way, please contact Kelley Williams, assistant director of admissions, at kwilliams@tcmedc.org or 570.504.9068.