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eCHECK-UP

An electronic newsletter for clinical faculty of The Commonwealth Medical College

Summer 2012

TCMC Welcomes Steven J. Scheinman, MD, as New President & Dean



The Board of Trustees of TCMC announced on August 2, 2012, that Steven J. Scheinman, MD, has been named president and dean. Dr. Scheinman will succeed interim president and dean Robert Wright, MD, on September 10. "After an extensive national search, Dr. Scheinman emerged as an exceptional leader with a strong and broad vision to advance the college's educational, administrative, and research activities in exciting new ways," stated Louis DeNaples, chair, TCMC Board of Trustees. "TCMC is extremely fortunate to have recruited a leader with Dr. Scheinman's outstanding talents and breadth of experience in medical education. His character is consonant with TCMC's mission and values."

Dr. Scheinman brings outstanding leadership and academic credentials to TCMC. He is professor of medicine and pharmacology at SUNY Upstate Medical University, and previously served as its senior vice president and dean of the College of Medicine with institutional responsibility for overseeing its academic, research, and clinical programs and broadening the regional presence for the Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Health Professions and Graduate Studies. Dr. Scheinman has earned international prominence for his research into the genetics of inherited kidney diseases and kidney stones. He has been on the faculty at Upstate for nearly 30 years, during which he served as chief of the nephrology division in the department of medicine for ten years where he doubled the size of the faculty and grew the dialysis program.

"Dr. Scheinman's commitment to excellence is evident from his past accomplishments and leadership positions," stated Chris Adonizio, MD, MLA, chair of the TCMC search committee and assistant dean of clinical education. "I believe that he will work in a thoughtful, insightful and collaborative manner with faculty, staff, students and leaders to guide the future of TCMC."

"I am honored and excited to be asked to lead this outstanding institution. The mission and values of TCMC are remarkably strong and clear, and deeply appealing to me," stated Dr. Scheinman. "I look forward to working with TCMC's talented and committed trustees, leadership, faculty, staff and students, and to advancing TCMC's mission to improve the health of the region through excellence in medical education, research and community service. I am particularly excited to be taking the reins at this propitious time when the LCME has advanced TCMC to provisional accreditation and has approved expansion of class size to 100 students, and when we will be granting our first MD degrees this spring."

TCMC Datebook

Save the date for these upcoming events:

White Coat Ceremony for the Class of 2016

Friday, August 10th @ 4 PM
Scranton Preparatory School

Reception immediately following at TCMC

To register, contact Sharon Bednarz at
SBednarz@tcmedc.org

Student Letters of Reference Due

Saturday, September 1st

Contact Chris Carroll, Regional Affairs
Manager, at 570.504.9678 for assistance.

The 4th Annual TCMC Golf Tournament

Friday, September 14th @ 9 AM
Huntsville Golf Club

Reception, Dinner & Awards at 3 PM

\$300 for an individual golfer

\$75 Dinner only, \$150 Hole Sponsor

To register, visit:

www.thecommonwealthmedical.com/golf

Fall Regional Faculty Meetings

West - Wed., September 26th @ 6:00 PM
North - Thurs., September 27th @ 6:00 PM
South - Tues., October 16th @ 6:00 PM

TCMC Gala 2012

Friday, October 12th @ 6:30 PM
The Woodlands Inn

\$150 per person

To register, visit:

www.thecommonwealthmedical.com/gala

TCMC 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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*eCHECK-UP is a publication of the Department of
Faculty Affairs & Faculty Development.*

*Newsletters will be published quarterly.
Submit items of interest to editor and designer,
Chris Carroll, at CCarroll@tcmedc.org*

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

From the North

Hard to believe but we are now almost totally immersed in preparing for our fourth medical school class, and, at the same time, have successfully launched the three previous classes. Next thing you know, May 11th, 2013, will be here, our first MD graduation. This task could only be accomplished due to the unstinting, generous support of our area physicians. We hope to accord some semblance of recognition in our soon-to-be enacted Academy for Clinical Educators program.

We recently had a staff retreat at TCMC and the adjectives used to describe our efforts were many and varied. The one that resonated most was resilience. Well, we still have a way to go, but we are absolutely certain that we will get there. It has been a wonderful and worthwhile ride thanks to all of you.

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

From the South

As the new regional dean for the south campus, I would like to introduce myself. I am a practicing gynecologist in the Wilkes-Barre area for the past thirty years. My goal is to continue the excellent experiences our students have had in the southern region under the guidance of Dr. Richard English.

I am looking forward to getting to know my students, cementing the bonds with our existing clinicians, and developing relationships with new physicians in order to expand clinical experiences for our students. Can't wait to meet all of you!!!

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

From the West

Here in the west clinical campus of TCMC we have had the pleasure of welcoming our second group of 16 students who seemed to settle into our community quite well. Everyone found appropriate housing and we started orientation in earnest on June 18th. We are by now well into the third-year LIC curriculum and all the students are enthusiastic and dedicated.

Susquehanna Health's new patient tower began to be occupied by patients in April and promises to be an excellent venue for learning. We have new state-of-the-art educational space adjacent to our medical library, which will lend itself well to our use. Our students continue to travel one day per week to Evangelical Community Hospital in Lewisburg, Jersey Shore Hospital, or Lock Haven Hospital for various clinical experiences.

Our fourth-year students are scattered far and wide, but some are present here in the west doing sub-internships and electives. We gather weekly on Thursday to reconnect and learn from each other. And so, we continue to forge ahead guided by the mission of TCMC, educating our students in our community and by our wonderful clinicians.

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

Thank you!

Special thanks to Dr. Richard English for his years serving as Associate Dean for South Regional Campus Development. His efforts have contributed greatly to solidifying TCMC's presence in the region and affording students positive learning experiences.

Regional Affairs

Third-Year Medical Student + Preceptor = Positive Outcomes for All



Preceptor Kristine Maxwell-McNulty, MD, (on left) with third-year TCMC medical student, Eleanor Gillis, at the Physicians Health Alliance OB/GYN office in Scranton.

Kristine Maxwell-McNulty, MD, at Physicians Health Alliance OB/GYN in Scranton, and third-year medical student, Eleanor Gillis, shared their thoughts on their current student-preceptor experience and how it benefits both of them in their professional development. This is what they had to say:

“Having medical students on a regular basis keeps me abreast of the most current literature and forces me to continue my learning. I learn as much from them as they learn from me I hope! I feel responsible for part of their future in medicine and hope they take something from the OB/GYN experience,” stated McNulty. “Eleanor is a sweet, bright student. We have only had a few encounters together, but I feel our year will be great. She is very enthusiastic about learning, coming to the OR, and seeing patients. I see Eleanor as a great listener with compassion for the patients. This is probably the most important part of medicine, to know how to listen; she already has this quality, so as her knowledge expands from her rotations, she will make a great doctor!” added McNulty.

Eleanor Gillis, said, “I’m very excited to be working with Dr. McNulty and her staff this year. Despite a busy office schedule, she always takes a minute to explain the management of complicated cases or to discuss a topic that she has assigned to me for reading.” Added Gillis, “She has a wonderful relationship with her patients and I feel privileged to be part of the team that helps her to provide care.”

According to McNulty, “Most of the patients are excited to have interaction with medical students from TCMC. I think this allows the patients to feel part of the education of future doctors. I also feel that the students appreciate what we are giving them. I had great students last year, Kristen Suchniak and Christine Park No, as well as all of the students who did bursts, and I feel the respect among all of us was mutual. I know I taught them something when I heard them teaching other students on the Labor and Delivery unit. That is the best form of appreciation!”

“We are fortunate to have a medical school in the region and with the change in healthcare, it is comforting to know that if we provide students with a positive experience, we may have a continued pool of physicians who want to practice in the area, including the many specialists we need!” added McNulty.

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Continuing Medical Education Sidebar

The CME Office of TCMC is pleased to announce the availability of a new CME format. Physicians often discover clinical questions during patient care practice that require research and reflection. Internet Point of Care (IPOC) is a CME initiative in which a physician engages in self-directed, online learning on topics relevant to clinical practice.

There are three steps to this activity:

- 1) Identify and document a practice based knowledge need;
- 2) Search and document resources used to answer the question either on the TCMC Library database or elsewhere, and;
- 3) Describe the application of findings to clinical practice and determine whether it resulted in a change in knowledge, competence or performance.

The clinical questions are self-identified knowledge needs. Possible need areas may include, but are not limited to, diagnostic or treatment dilemmas, new clinical information, controversial clinical issues, and ethical issues.

Physicians can earn 0.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ each time a search and a related form are completed. Visit IPOC on the TCMC Portal at: http://wp.tcmcd.net/dept_sites/cme/?page_id=733.

We hope that all clinical faculty give this new format a try - physicians who have used it throughout the country have concluded that it positively impacts patient care. It may be useful especially for those physicians serving as preceptors to medical students who arrive at clinical questions that require research.

For more information, contact JoAnn Babish, Manager of CME and Program Development, at JBabish@tcmcd.org.

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Faculty Database Management

A topic of continued interest on Faculty Affairs listservs is tracking faculty activity, paperless promotion and tenure processes, electronic standardized CV's, and how the data can be utilized across the institution not just for Faculty Affairs and Faculty Development purposes, but for the accreditation reporting process, human resources, marketing and development, and for the faculty members' career advancement.

With this trend in mind, TCMC embarked on creating a database to manage full-time and part-time faculty and over 800 volunteer clinical faculty across the regions. The project was spearheaded by Andrea DiMattia in Faculty Affairs and Faculty Development with the technical assistance and expertise of Jay Fortin, Director of Web Services, and Christopher Truskowski, Systems Developer, in TCMC's Information Technology Department. Along the way, many faculty and staff have assisted in fine-tuning and growing the database to its current status.

In March 2012, a poster was created by Andrea DiMattia, Jay Fortin, Christopher Truskowski, and Mary Roman and was presented at AAMC's Regional Conference for Northeastern Group on Educational Affairs (NEGEA). Mary Roman will present the poster in August 2012 at the AAMC's Group on Faculty Affairs in Indianapolis. More details to follow post conference.

For more information, contact Mary Roman, Faculty Affairs/Faculty Development Manager, at MRoman@tcmedc.org.

Continuing Medical Education

Visit TCMC's CME website on the portal under the Clinical Faculty tab. The site includes information on CME opportunities, as well as links for updates on regional campuses, faculty development, and the medical library.

Research Opportunities

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

Student Stats

TCMC Medical Students Poised for Success

Where Do They Go From Here?

The TCMC Charter Class of 2013 is currently in their fourth year. Students are taking clerkships in the 16 counties of northeastern and north central Pennsylvania, as well as clinical sites in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, New York, Los Angeles, and throughout the country. Some students have elected to take international clerkships in South Africa and at other sites around the world.

Some clerkship locations worth noting:

- Oregon Health & Science University School of Medicine
- University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
- Walter Reed National Military Medical Center
- University of Colorado School of Medicine
- University of California-San Francisco
- National Institute of Health (NIH)
- University of California Davis School of Medicine
- Thomas Jefferson University School of Medicine
- University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
- University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

"Our fourth year curriculum is a traditional hospital-based and elective program in which many of you participate. Once again, thank you to all of our clinical faculty throughout our three regions. Without your time, dedication, and hard work, we would be unable to train our students. You are the role-models for the physicians of the future, and you are having a direct impact on the care of the people in our communities," said Chris Adonizio, MD, MLA, Professor of Medicine and Assistant Dean of Clinical Curriculum.

The members of the charter class are in the process of applying for residency placement. "We are very pleased with the performance of our students on their clinical clerkships and look forward to Match Day in March, 2013. Thank you to all clinical faculty who mentor and write letters of recommendation for our students. We are truly fortunate to work together to transform healthcare in our region," added Dr. Adonizio.

The Bar is Set High for the Class of 2016

Equally impressive is the statistical makeup of the incoming Class of 2016. According to Dr. Linda Berardi-Demo, Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Affairs, "TCMC enrolled 72 students from a pool of 4,594 applicants in the most competitive interviewing process to date. Of the 72 new students, 36 are women and 36 are men. A first for TCMC, we have a sister and brother in the class." 61% of the class is from Pennsylvania and 20% hail from the northeast or north central part of the state. In addition to Pennsylvania, the students represent seven other states, including California, Florida, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Jersey, New York and Virginia.

The new medical school students attended 46 different colleges and most were science majors. Four of the students majored in engineering. Other non-science majors were international relations, fine arts and economics. Seventeen of the students have graduate degrees. In addition to English, students in the class speak 17 languages and have studied or worked internationally in places such as Romania, Italy, China, the Dominican Republic and Venezuela, just to name a few.

This is a very accomplished class who have participated in a variety of activities. While in college, many played sports. They are baseball, football, rugby and soccer players. They are martial artists and one student was a majorette and another a college mascot. Two students have worked with sea turtles. One was a nurse, one a novelist, and another a private drum teacher. One student was a puppet show developer, another worked for Lucasfilm and assisted the visual effects producer on Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith, and another was a child actress. "In addition to all of the interesting and impressive accomplishments, these first-year medical students boast an average overall GPA of 3.5," added Berardi-Demo. Welcome TCMC Class of 2016!