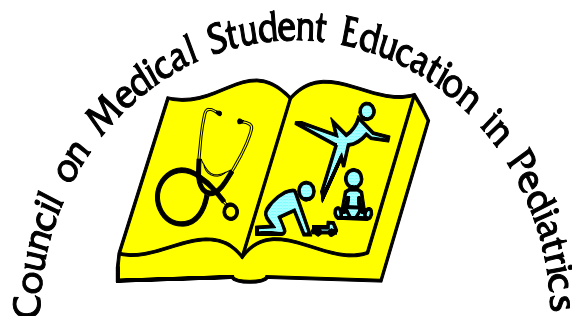


The Pediatric Educator



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Editor:

Paola Palma Sisto, MD
Medical College of Wisconsin
Milwaukee, WI

Comments from the President

Christopher White
cwhite@mail.mcg.edu



Greetings COMSEP Colleagues! As I'm writing this, our 2010 annual meeting is just around the corner. Annalisa Behnken and the University of New Mexico have done a great job preparing for this year's meeting in Albuquerque. The meeting theme is "Professionalism: Always Doing What's Right is Not Always What's Easy." We're fortunate to have as our keynote speaker Dr. Maxine

Papadakis, Associate Dean, Student Affairs, University of California San Francisco. Dr. Papadakis has published some of the most important studies on professionalism in medical students in the past decade, and is one of the foremost experts on this topic in the United States and Canada. Here's a sampling: 1) Papadakis MA, Hodgson CS, Teherani A, Kohatsu ND. *Unprofessional behavior in medical school is associated with subsequent disciplinary action by a state medical board. Academic Medicine.* 2004;79:244-9 . 2) Stern DT, Papadakis M. The developing physician – becoming a professional. *NEJM.* 2006;355:1794-1799. Dr. Papadakis has also served as President of the Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine (COMSEP's equivalent in Internal Medicine), so her work on professionalism comes from her experience as a clinical educator of medical students and residents.

This year's meeting will provide you an opportunity to participate in 3 workshops covering a diverse range of topics. You'll enjoy interesting research presentations from some of your peers in both oral presentation and poster format. You'll have an opportunity to work with colleagues from across North America on one of COMSEP's 5 Task Forces (for details on what they are doing, see the Task Force Reports in this

newsletter). If you're new to COMSEP or medical student education, we will offer a 4-hour preconference workshop for new clerkship directors as well as a special mentor lunch. Please contact Jillian Gann (jillian@degnon.org), Bill Wilson (wgw@virginia.edu) or Aleca Clark (aclark@ahs.llumc.edu) so we can link you with a more "seasoned" COMSEP member to help you get the most out of this year's meeting. Also, don't forget your clerkship coordinator! At this year's meeting there will be a special preconference workshop and three regular workshops targeted specifically for the needs of coordinators. For more details, please contact Dottye Currin (dcurrin@wfubmc.edu).

Although you always learn a lot at the annual meeting, the most important part of COMSEP are the wonderful people, and this year's meeting will allow plenty of opportunities for folks to get acquainted (or reacquainted) in a fabulous venue: the Hotel Albuquerque in Old Town Plaza. On Friday afternoon, we'll have our second annual Richard Sarkin Fun Run/Walk (I'll be walking, not running!), and Saturday night we've planned a wonderful banquet at the Anderson-Abruzzo Albuquerque International Balloon Museum. Finally, for COMSEP members of more than a few years, our 2010 meeting will be our last opportunity to express our gratitude to Jean Bartholomew and Lisa Elliott. These two wonderful people provided COMSEP's administrative and meeting planning support for 17 years! This will be their last meeting with us, and we want to make it memorable for them.

By the way, if you get the journal, *Pediatrics*, check out the January issue. At last year's COMSEP meeting, we had a highly successful combined day with the Association of Pediatric Program Directors (APPD), with Ken Roberts giving the keynote address. Ken was also given the Joseph St. Geme Jr Leadership Award at the Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting, and his speech is printed on pages 173-177. (Roberts KB. *Pediatrics*. 2010; 125 (1): 173-177). On page 174 is a picture of "The COMSEP-APPD Blues Brothers." Never has Bruce Morgenstern looked so good – Check out the socks!

Seriously, it's a great speech which all of us should take to heart.

On the theme of collaboration with the APPD, they are having their annual meeting at the Chicago Hilton from April 15-18, 2010. They have the same Task Force structure as we do, and their Task Force meetings are scheduled for Friday, April 16th from 9-11 a.m. The APPD Task Force chairs/co-chairs would like to continue the collaboration and have extended a welcome to any COMSEP Task Force members who would like to attend these meetings. For more information contact Kathy Haynes Johnson (Kathy@appd.org).

COMSEP is now in its 18th year of existence, and there are lots of current and former members who have served as educational leaders in COMSEP or other national organizations who are still interested in pediatric medical education. COMSEP needs to find a way to utilize experience and wisdom of these folks. They have much to offer our organization. Susan Marshall, Chris Maloney and Susan Bannister have expressed an interest in exploring ways in which we can actively engage this group of people into COMSEP. If you are a "seasoned" educational leader, a former COMSEP Executive Committee or Task Force Leader, and interested in working with Susan, Chris, or Susan on this effort, please contact them (emails are below). Susan Marshall: smarsh@u.washington.edu, Chris Maloney: Chris.Maloney@hsc.utah.edu, Susan Bannister: SusanL.Bannister@albertahealthservices.ca.

Reminder: If you have an idea for a possible research project that involves surveying the COMSEP membership, contact Sherilyn Smith (ssmit1@u.washington.edu).

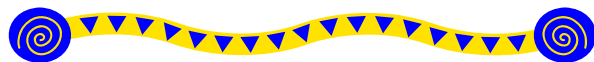
Our goal is to generate the best survey questions possible, and to survey the membership only once a year (in the Fall) to maximize the return rate and minimize the hassle to our members.

Finally, we're in the process of updating the COMSEP web page (<http://www.comsep.org/index.htm>). If you

see something that needs to be updated/corrected, or you have an idea for something that would make it better, contact David Levine, our webmaster (dlevine@msm.edu). Now that the web page is being managed in house, we can make changes much more quickly than before.

Take care,

Chris



Coordinators Group
Dottie Law Currin, MPH
dcurrin@wsubmc.edu

We are excited to report there are several professional development and social opportunities planned specifically for coordinators/administrators at the 2010 COMSEP meeting in Albuquerque!

As stated in earlier reports, the goal of our group is to provide a venue for education, professional development, and networking in a national forum for the primary support staff in pediatric undergraduate medical education. We very much appreciate the continued support of medical schools in the USA and Canada as well as that of the COMSEP Executive Committee and COMSEP members.

We are still strongly committed to continuing our efforts (which began in Atlanta in 2007 and continued in San Antonio in 2008) to become a more active and resourceful group within COMSEP. At the combined COMSEP/APPD 2009 conference in Baltimore, due to space and time limitations, the coordinators group did not have any formal workshops or events. However, we have been communicating, organizing, and planning extensively during this past year. Our subcommittees have been working hard and have already met the goals we set for 2009/2010.

Certification workshops for coordinators were offered in Rochester, MN and Temple, TX last year. A total of nine pediatrics coordinators attended one or the other and have been working on their required research projects in the meantime. Several coordinators will be presenting results of their projects in Albuquerque.

Based on a number of requests and inquiries, we have arranged for another certification workshop to be offered in Albuquerque. This will give interested coordinators the opportunity to receive specific training and certification in undergraduate medical education administration. This 5-hour workshop will be offered on **Thursday, March 25 from 8am – 1pm**. Check the COMSEP meeting registration for more information and details for registering for the workshop. [Please note that there will be an extra fee for this *pre-conference* workshop (~\$60); registration for the general conference does not include this workshop so be sure to check registration form carefully].

As always, coordinators are welcome to register for any workshops offered at COMSEP. Likewise, we encourage clerkship directors and other COMSEP members to attend any coordinator workshops of interest to them. This year we have several time slots designated for training and organizing that will be of special interest to coordinators including a General Session and Organizational Meeting for Coordinators and an informal dinner meeting on Thursday; three workshops on topics of professionalism, evaluation, and CLIPP on Friday and Saturday; presentations on Friday by coordinators completing their certification requirements; as well as a Wrap-Up session for coordinators on Saturday afternoon. Please see COMSEP registration form for full descriptions of all workshops, the names of presenters, and the full calendar of events.

Attention Clerkship Directors: We are trying to update the mailing list for coordinators (currently 70+). **Please ask your coordinator/administrator if they are on the list**; they should have received

information about the Albuquerque meeting (via email on Jan 8th from Donnita Pelsler). If they have not received any correspondence and you would like for them to consider attending COMSEP this year, please pass along your registration information when you receive it!



Task Force Reports

Curriculum Task Force

Lyuba Konopasek and Sandy Sanguino

lyk2003@med.cornell.edu
ssanguino@northwestern.edu

The Curriculum Task Force continues its work on the Subinternship Curriculum. We are collaborating with the Research Task Force on developing an evaluation plan for the Subinternship Curriculum. The curriculum has been posted on the COMSEP web site. We look forward to see you in Albuquerque.

Faculty Development Task Force

Bob Swantz and Julie Byerly
Robert_Swantz@urmc.rochester.edu
julie_byerley@med.unc.edu

The Faculty Development Task Force has been focusing most of its efforts this Fall/Winter to plan for the annual meeting in March in Albuquerque. The workshop selection committee included four task force members, Julie Byerley (chair), Bob Swantz, Mike Barone, and Jenny Christner, along with the meeting host (Annalisa Behnken), CME representative (Joe Gigante), COMSEP president (Chris White) and president-elect (Jerry Woodhead). This is the first year in which the submission process was entirely electronic, and was coordinated by Degnon

Associates. The committee reviewed and evaluated over 35 workshop submissions, including 5 pre-conference proposals. Workshop proposals were assessed using a standardized 7 item rating tool developed by the Faculty Development Task Force, which takes into account content, methods/delivery, diversity of presenters and overall value to membership. Also, workshop content was reviewed in the context of the faculty development curriculum "Roadmap," as well as the meeting theme of professionalism. This year there were many excellent proposals and decisions were made to fill a total of 3 pre-conference workshop and 21 regular meeting timeslots. We are very pleased to be able to offer these outstanding workshops to the membership and look forward to an exciting and enriching 2010 meeting!

Other workgroups within the task force include: Mentoring (Bill Wilson and Aleca Clark), Community Faculty (Harold Bland), Educator Portfolio/Individual Learning Plan (Rashmi Srivastana), and Resources (Jenny Christner). Bill and Aleca are actively recruiting mentors for new members for the meeting in March. Soo Kim is spearheading a project to compile a speaker's bureau list that will ultimately be posted on the COMSEP website. Bob Swantz is working with Degnon Associates to plan for the next annual report of member's scholarly activities. These groups will get together again at the Annual Meeting to continue their work projects.

Learning and Technology Task Force

Pradip Patel
Pradip.Patel@Louisville.edu

LTTF (Learning & Technology Task Force)

Some of the large and small group discussions that transpired between the members of the LTTF from AAPD & COMSEP during the combined session at last year's meeting continue to generate interest.

Updates include:

Electronic Health Records and Medical Education

- This was a topic of the ACE panel discussion at the 2009 AAMC meeting in Boston. Jenny Christner represented COMSEP on that panel.
- We continue to explore the role of EHRs in medical education and are working collaboratively with other organizations (ACE) in order to explore the effects on education. We are exploring the possibility of the development of "best practices" in the use of EHRs in medical student education.

Webpage storage of resources

- COMSEP changed webhosting companies in July 2009 with the change of administrative support to Degnon and Associates.
- As this transition occurs, all current COMSEP web pages are being reviewed. An "ad-hoc" committee of members will take responsibility for different parts of the Web page. They will make revisions and suggestions and submit them to David Levine, who will work with Degnon Associates on implementing the changes.
- David Levine (dlevine@msm.edu) from COMSEP will continue in the capacity of Webmaster as COMSEP goes through the transformation and will investigate synergy with APPD resources.

Social Networking

- We are happy to announce that an LTTF sponsored workshop titled *Social Networking Websites and Medical Education: Creating Opportunity or Liability* has been submitted and approved for this year's meeting. The workshop will focus on the potentials of social networking both positive and negative.

- David Levine, Pradip D. Patel, Anton Alerte, and Denise Fitzsimon-Hawkes are the facilitators of the workshop.
- Please support our task force by attending this workshop, and come prepared to join the rich discussion that will ensue.

COMSEP LTTF Leadership

- Pradip D. Patel and Anton Alerte continue as Task force leaders.
- David Levine has transitioned off as a co-leader, but continues as webmaster during the administrative transition to Degnon and Associates.
- Bruce Morgenstern also will continue in his important role as listserv moderator.

Learning technology survey

- It has been several years since we last surveyed the COMSEP membership to assess what technology was being utilized in pediatric medical student education and to what extent technology and digital resources had been incorporated into our educational programs.
- With the speed at which technology changes, it likely is time to survey our group again to get an idea of how the latest in technology innovation is being integrated in medical education.

Technology and COMSEP in the future

- Abstracts and workshop proposals have already been submitted electronically, this year. For the 2010 meeting in New Mexico, we should be able to have everything electronic and meeting materials on USB drives in lieu of a printed syllabus.

Evaluation Task Force (ETF)

Starla Martinez, Scott Davis and
Gwen McIntosh
smartinez@chmca.org

shdavis@tulane.edu
gkmcinto@wisc.edu

This year's COMSEP meeting will bring the culmination of the project our task force began 3 years ago, that of defining "minimal acceptable achievement" for students for each of the skills portions of the COMSEP Curriculum. After much work by everyone in the task force, the document, in spreadsheet form, has been approved by the members of the ETF and is in the process of being circulated (via email) to the COMSEP membership for comment and final revision.

Of course, this "final" document will not be helpful to any of us if it is not used or if it remains static as educational issues change, so at this year's meeting we will discuss how to help all of us best use the document and how the ETF might intermittently review and update the document to keep it relevant.

Scott and I have greatly benefited from Gwen's involvement as the newest member of the leadership team since the 2009 meeting, and she has been intimately involved with the current project. Our plan for Albuquerque is to spend the first Task Force session doing structured strategic planning for the future direction(s) of the ETF. This session will be based in part on ideas from the ETF members generated by survey prior to the meeting and in part on plans already simmering. The second session will flow from the first session and will be focused on establishing specific next steps and timelines.

This year would be a great year to get involved with the ETF if you haven't done so already, as we are setting the groundwork for the next several years of Task Force initiatives. We anticipate opportunities both for seasoned ETF veterans and for willing newcomers, so join us in Albuquerque!

Research and Scholarship Task Force

Jan Hanson and Linda Tewksbury
jhanson@usuhs.edu

lrt1@nyumc.edu

The Research and Scholarship Task Force is excited about a good group of abstract submissions for the meeting in Albuquerque. As in past years, we will select three to four abstracts for platform presentation and we will invite others for poster presentation. Everyone who submitted an abstract will receive written feedback, and everyone who presents a poster will also receive feedback. We hope that the feedback, as well as a workshop we will present at this year's meeting, will help COMSEP members hone their skills in writing abstracts and preparing presentations. We are pleased to have the opportunity to present two workshops at the Pediatric Academic Society meeting in Vancouver, one on *The Scholarship of Application* (first developed for a COMSEP meeting) and a second on *Designing Qualitative Research*. Co-presenters from the APPD Research Task Force will work with us on both of these workshops, and we are enjoying this new collaboration. Working with the Curriculum Task Force, we have nearly completed a protocol for a strong evaluation of the COMSEP/APPD Pediatric Subinternship Curriculum. We have learned a great deal while writing this protocol! Very shortly, we will submit the protocol for IRB approval, so look for an update in Albuquerque about how you can participate if you would like to evaluate this curriculum at your school. One goal that remains from the meeting in Baltimore is to gather a group of people who will help each other prepare submissions for MedEdPortal. If you would like to participate in this group, please contact Jan. If you would like to plan and prepare workshops, build your research and scholarship skills, help evaluate the subinternship curriculum or prepare a publication for MedEdPortal, please consider the Research and Scholarship Task Force Meetings in Albuquerque. We promise a warm welcome and many interesting opportunities!



COMSEP Webpage Report

David Levine, COMSEP Webmaster
dlevine@msm.edu

We are very excited about the transition of our technology to Degnon and Associates. The public webpages are now hosted at Degnon and Associates and the listserv and members-only area (directory and library) will be shortly moved as well. Thanks so much to Christy McGinty-Levine (no relation!) for coordinating this transition. Our public webpages need revision and updating as well. Thanks so much to Harris Burstin for already reviewing and suggesting edits to a number of our important resource pages. But there is a lot more work to do! We would love to have new members of the "Web Editorial Board" to assist us in making changes and keeping our information current. If you would like to volunteer to review and revise any of our public pages, please let me know at dlevine@msm.edu.

AAP Liaison Report

David Levine and Shale Wong

COMSEP is partnering with the AAP Resident Section to revise the important mentoring publication formerly known as "Pediatrics 101." Many of our current and past COMSEP leaders contributed sections – about 50% will be from COMSEP and 50% from the Academy. Thanks to all of our writers who spent a lot of time investigating and developing their sections for this much more comprehensive document. We have edited the sections and sent them on to the Academy. We look forward to reviewing and developing the final publication for everyone's use in advising and mentoring medical students for careers in Pediatrics.



Opportunities Corner



Guidebook for Clerkship Directors, a Practical Resource for All Clerkship Directors

The Alliance for Clinical Education (ACE) is pleased to provide the third edition of *Guidebook for Clerkship Directors* as an electronic and printed book. The 2005 version of this popular resource includes six new chapters written by 68 different authors. The third edition is a collaborative product of ACE, a multidisciplinary group of representatives from national clerkship director organizations.

The *Guidebook* provides a single, easily readable, and practical resource for new and seasoned clerkship directors in all disciplines.

The *Guidebook*, available in electronic format

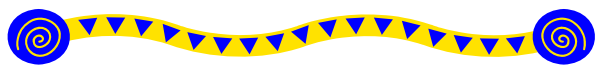
(www.allianceforclinicaleducation.org), is easy to navigate and search because of Google's local website search software and direct links. Spiral-bound print copies are available for \$40 and may be ordered by downloading an order form from the ACE website.

The book includes expanded and updated chapters on topics including curriculum, teaching methods, use of technology in clerkships, evaluation and grading, program evaluation, working with students, and faculty development. New chapters include preparing for LCME accreditation site visits, career development, educational scholarship, clerkship orientation, and the role of clerkship administrators.

The editor, an experienced former clerkship director and educational

administrator, wishes this book had been available years ago when she became a clerkship director. She hopes the *Guidebook* will help clerkship directors create outstanding educational experiences for their students and will promote advancement of their careers and the field of medical education through research and scholarship.

ACE is a multidisciplinary group formed in 1992 to enhance clinical instruction of medical students. ACE's mission is to foster collaboration across specialties to promote excellence in clinical education of medical students. Its members include representatives of the groups which direct the core clinical clerkships in most medical schools. Representatives of the following national organizations of clerkship directors are also among ACE's members: Association of Directors of Medical Student Education in Psychiatry (ADMSEP), Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics (APGO), Association for Surgical Education (ASE), Clerkship Directors in Emergency Medicine (CDEM), Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine (CDIM), Consortium of Neurology Clerkship Directors (CNCD), Council on Medical Student Education in Pediatrics (COMSEP), and Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM).



Book Club/Journal Review

Legend: WVR = Bill Raszka

Wolpaw T, Papp KK, Bordage G. Using SNAPPS to Facilitate the Expression of Clinical Reasoning and Uncertainties: A Randomized Comparison Group Trial. Acad Med. 2009; 84:517-524.

Reviewer: Bill Varade
University of Rochester

What is the problem and what is known about it so far?

To foster the growth of students' clinical reasoning skills preceptors need to gain insight into their clinical thinking.

Traditional case presentations provide mainly factual information with little revelation of students' clinical reasoning.

Why did the researchers do this particular study?

Given the time constraints on practitioners, an efficient learner-centered tool to allow reflection on students' knowledge base and reasoning skills in the outpatient setting is needed. The SNAPPS technique for case presentations (**S**ummarize history and findings; **N**arrow the differential; **A**nalyze the differential; **P**robe preceptor about uncertainties; **P**lan management; **S**elect case-related issues for self-study) was studied.

Who was studied?

108 of 162 eligible 3rd year medical students in a required 4-week family medicine clerkship were recruited over a 1½ year period. 64 completed the study. 42 family medicine preceptors at 30 sites were recruited and randomly assigned to three study groups. Students were placed into study groups based on their preceptor's assignment.

How was the study done?

Preceptors and students in the SNAPPS group were trained in this presentation technique. The 2nd group was trained in the importance of providing and soliciting regular feedback. The 3rd group was provided no particular training and was told to use their preferred case presentation method. All students were asked to audiotape their presentations to their preceptors at the end of the clerkship. Two of the authors listened to all the tapes and coded the content according to whether it contained eight elements identified as being related to clinical reasoning and case-based uncertainties, as well as presentation length and conciseness.

What did the researchers find?

The SNAPPS students' presentations tended to be longer but were more concise than the other groups. All three groups' presentations were thorough and complete. The SNAPPS students provided twice as many diagnostic possibilities, justified these five times more often, and compared and contrasted two hypotheses more often than the other groups. SNAPPS students formulated more questions and uncertainties and initiated management discussions 30% more often than the other groups. Student-initiated selection of reading material occurred only in the SNAPPS group.

What were the limitations of the study?

Though participants were asked not to discuss the method they used with members of the other groups, it is unlikely that the student body would remain blinded for long. The study was performed in a single institution, during a Family Medicine clerkship, and in an outpatient setting. Application to other settings might not give the same results. Retention and continued use of the SNAPPS technique by students beyond the FM clerkship (an indication of the perceived value of the process) was not addressed.

What are the implications of the study?

This study showed that the SNAPPS presentation technique provided preceptors with more insight into indicators of students' clinical reasoning allowing for more precise and effective teaching without a significant increase in time commitment. The technique places responsibility for its use on the learner rather than the preceptor, thus potentially allowing for the early training of medical students in SNAPPS which they could then apply in a variety of clinical situations. This learner-implemented approach could avoid the long-standing faculty development problem of trying to instruct preceptors from a wide variety of disciplines, both within and outside the medical center, in the consistent application of effective teaching techniques.

Ed note: I cringe when I hear the students on rounds say, "in summary this is a ... (recapitulating the chief complaint) and our

plan will be (followed by drivel on several well functioning organ systems)." Any tool that enhances student commitment, decision making, and problem solving is a winner. (WVR)



COMSEP MEETING
MARCH 25-27, 2010
Annalisa Behnken
University of New Mexico
abehnken@salud.unm.edu

It's time for the annual COMSEP meeting! The 2010 meeting of COMSEP, **Professionalism, Doing What's Right and Not Always What's Easy**, will be held March 25- 27, 2010, at the Hotel Albuquerque in the heart of Old Town centrally located in Albuquerque, New Mexico. As a representative of the University of New Mexico, I am honored to be your program host.

This year we are delighted to have Maxine Papadakis, MD as our plenary speaker. A practicing general internist, Dr. Maxine Papadakis is Professor of Clinical Medicine and University of California, San Francisco,

School of Medicine, and a member of the Haile T. Debas Academy of Medical Educators at UCSF. She is well acquainted with undergraduate medical education, serving as an internal medicine clerkship director for 10 years and as past president of Clerkship Directors of Internal Medicine (CDIM). In 2005, Dr. Papadakis published a ground-breaking paper in *The New England Journal of Medicine* demonstrating that "disciplinary action among practicing physicians by medical boards was strongly associated with unprofessional behavior in medical school." She has become a nationally recognized expert and researcher in the assessment of professionalism in medical students.

Our meeting will open with the following preconference workshops: "Leading the Clerkship in Pediatrics: A Workshop for New Clerkship Directors"; "Fostering Professionalism In Medical Students: Exploring Context And Creating Dialogue Around Values"; "Leadership Development" - and last, but not least, the Clerkship Coordinators Pre-Conference Certification Workshop.

The meeting will be held at the Hotel Albuquerque located in historic Old Town just one block from Route 66. Old Town is over 300 years old and it follows the traditional Spanish pattern of a central plaza and church, surrounded by homes and businesses. Many of the historic homes are still standing and some have been renovated into today's shops, galleries and restaurants.

Spectacular weather, with 310 days of sunshine, makes Albuquerque an ideal destination. Albuquerque enjoys a mild dry climate. The average high temperature for March is 61 with a 73% chance of sunshine. Albuquerque sits at the base of the Sandia Mountains. At its lowest elevation, 4,500ft, runs the Rio Grande River. The highest point of the Sandia Mountains sits at 10,678ft.

The annual COMSEP meeting is open to anyone at your institution who is involved or interested in medical student education. We always welcome new members and look forward to sharing ideas and reconnecting

with valued friends and colleagues. We hope to see you in Albuquerque – this exceptional program and magnificent setting promises to make this COMSEP meeting unforgettable.

