



COMSEP
Excellence in Medical Student
Education in Pediatrics

The Pediatric Educator

Council on Medical Student Education in Pediatrics

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Message from the President



COMSEP is poised to celebrate its 21st birthday in Nashville, Tennessee in April 2013 along with our colleagues in APPD. This combined meeting will have as its theme “**Meaningful Competency Based Assessments**” and will feature workshops and presentations from both COMSEP and APPD members. As I write this message, a combined working group is in process of planning details of a meeting that will include activities aimed at the combined audience and at members of each group. Stay tuned for more information and look for the call for workshop proposals that was sent out the week of September 17th. A call for abstracts for either poster or platform presentation will follow later in the fall.

Kudos to Susan Bannister for her efforts to rejuvenate the **COMSEP Journal Club**! Since May of this year, Susan and her cadre of volunteer reviewers have provided us with monthly summaries of articles relevant to medical education. I trust that these monthly missives have added value to your daily educational activities. If you have not yet read the Journal Club, visit <http://www.comsep.org/scholarlyactivities/jc.cfm>.

Susan has also been busy as the new Editor-in-Chief of the “**Perspectives**” column in *Pediatrics*. Helping with

this activity is the Editorial Board made that includes Janice Hanson, Chris Maloney, and Bill Raszka. Additions to the Editorial Board are anticipated. Susan sent out a call for proposals in June that I hope many of you answered. Two articles were published in 2012 and four articles will be published in 2013.

Janet Fischel continues to direct and manage the **COMSEP Grants Program** and has sent out a call for proposals with an application deadline of December 4, 2012 and 5 pm EST. Details can be found on the COMSEP web site: www.comsep.org/scholarlyactivities/grants.cfm. The application process is open and details can be found at: www.comsep.org/grants/login.cfm. You do not need to be an experienced grant writer to submit an application to this program for funding. In fact, the program is designed to help you develop skills and carry out a project. You will receive comprehensive feedback about your proposal and will be mentored should you receive a grant. NOW is the time to plan to submit a proposal!

In October you will receive the **Annual Survey**. Please take the time to complete it. The information obtained is critical to our organization.

Planning for the Pediatric Excellence in Education Across the Continuum (PEEAC 3) conference is under way. Details about date and location will be available later in the year. This is a superb conference for new and mid-career educators.

Many of you are in the process of writing "Chairman's Letters" for fourth year students. COMSEP and APPD are beginning discussions about development of a standardized letter. You will hear more about this as progress is made.

Clerkship Administrators are making plans to develop their own web page on the COMSEP web site. The group is also working to encourage increased membership from the group of individuals who have clerkship administrative responsibility from all departments of Pediatrics. If your program has not enrolled your administrator as a COMSEP member, consider doing so. The membership is included in the basic dues for each department.

The COMSEP Executive Committee will have its fall meeting November 9 and 10 to discuss progress on our strategic goals, the upcoming combined meeting, and the multitude of activities being carried out by COMSEP members.

Please read the summaries from task forces that are included in this newsletter and become or stay involved with one of the task forces. Consider developing a proposal for submission to the COMSEP Grants Program. Stay tuned for the next edition of the COMSEP Journal Club, ably edited by Susan Bannister. If you have not yet explored the new COMSEP web site, <http://www.comsep.org> please take a few moments to do so.

The academic year is moving swiftly and the work load for clerkship directors and M4 advisors is picking up. The effort of COMSEP members has had a positive impact on medical student interest in Pediatrics as a career. Best wishes to all COMSEP members as we move into fall.

Sincerely,

Jerry Woodhead

jerold-woodhead@uiowa.edu

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Calendar Item	Deadline / Dates	Additional info / website
2013 Annual Meeting Workshop and Research Abstract Submission	Deadline: October 18, 2012	Click the link below for more information and to access the submission system!

		Annual Meeting Information
Annual Survey	Coming the week of October 15th	Click the link below to complete the survey today! Annual Survey Information
2013 Annual Meeting with APPD Renaissance Nashville Nashville, TN	April 10-14, 2013	Save the Date! Annual Meeting Information

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COMSEP Task Force Updates

[Curriculum Task Force](#)

Submitted by:

Sandy Sanguino ssanguino@northwestern.edu

Elizabeth Stuart aestuart@stanford.edu

Greg Toussaint gregory.toussaint@wright.edu

The Curriculum Task Force continues to work on gathering and building tools for teaching and assessment of clinical reasoning, linking the elements of the COMSEP curriculum to the ACGME Competencies, and developing a brief, canuc-peds-eque version of the written curriculum. As we move closer to the combined meeting with the APPD in Nashville, we will solidify plans for working with the program directors on clinical reasoning. Keep an eye out on the COMSEP list serve as we diver deeper into planning.

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[Evaluation Task Force \(ETF\)](#)

Submitted by:

Gwen McIntosh gkmcinto@wisc.edu

Lisa Martin limartin@lumc.edu

At the COMSEP annual meeting this spring the ETF had two very productive sessions getting back to the roots of the committee's charge: examining useful evaluation tools. Our focus in the last year was Medical Student Peer Assessment. That work has culminated in a workshop submitted for the 2013 PAS meeting and in ongoing development of manuscript on medical student peer assessment based on items in the last COMSEP annual survey. One goal for the 2012-2013 academic year is to participate in the AAMC MedEdPortal project of building a library of helpful evaluation tools for use by medical educators. We will also continue to develop workshops focusing on different aspects of evaluation to be submitted to each COMSEP annual meeting and other venues, such as APPD, APA, AAP and PEEAC meetings. If there is a specific evaluation topic you would like to see offered at the 2013 COMSEP Annual Meeting, please let us know. If you would like to be added to the ETF email list, please contact Gwen McIntosh. This year would be a great year to get involved with the ETF. We anticipate opportunities both for seasoned ETF veterans and for willing newcomers!

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[Faculty Development Task Force](#)

Submitted by:

Jenny Christner jchristn@med.umich.edu

Steve Tinguely stephen.tinguely@med.und.edu

Alicia Freedy Alicia.freedy@inova.org

The Faculty Development Task Force held its post Annual COMSEP Meeting phone conference in June. Of the several agenda items discussed there are two that COMSEP members may find of particular interest at this time. Stephanie Starr, Alicia Freedy and Corki Lehman are leading the effort to create a proposal for the Executive Committee regarding a Faculty Development certificate program for Clerkship Directors similar to those offered by the APA and the OBGYN clerkship directors. Membership input will certainly be elicited if this initiative moves forward! An example of that would be soliciting opinions on workshops that would be required to receive "COMSEP certification." The second item that will be brought forward to the executive committee is the question of whether or not COMSEP should have a presence on Facebook or some other social medium.

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[Research and Scholarship Task Force](#)

Submitted by:

Robin English rengli@lsuhsc.edu

Gary Beck gbeck@unmc.edu

Greetings to all of you! Members of the Research and Scholarship Task Force have been hard at work on several projects since our meeting in Indianapolis. Our working group on simulation, led by Mitzi Scotten, has worked with other members of COMSEP to submit questions regarding simulation to the COMSEP annual survey; we appreciate your completion of that survey to help us better understand how simulation is currently being used in pediatric education. In addition, our working group on clinical reasoning, led by TJ Jirasevijinda, has revised the clinical reasoning worksheet and is recruiting sites for a pilot project using the worksheet as a teaching tool.

Many task force members are working on the evaluation of the COMSEP Sub-I Curriculum, along with members of the Curriculum Task Force. We met at the meeting in Indianapolis; some of us met again at PAS in Boston to begin the qualitative analysis of data in Individual Learning Plans completed by sub-interns for this study. Our progress slowed through the summer, but we have plans to resume our efforts in earnest in October. The next steps are to complete the qualitative analysis and write a paper based on last year's platform presentation at COMSEP.

Soon we will be recruiting abstract reviewers for the poster and platform sessions at the upcoming combined meeting with APPD. Past task force leaders Jan Hanson and Linda Tewksbury will oversee the abstract review process, which utilizes Glassick's criteria for quality educational scholarship. Finally, members of our task force are already making contacts with APPD members to collaborate on research and scholarship workshops for the meeting in Nashville. We are really looking forward to seeing you all there!

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[Learning Technology Task Force](#)

Submitted by:

Mark Hormann mark.d.hormann@uth.tmc.edu

Robert Dudas dude@jhmi.edu

Share your creativity! LTTF is looking for volunteers to help Beta test COMSEP Jones. Specifically we would like you to log-in to youtube (user name: comseplttf, password: comseplttf) and post a video demonstrating how

you use technology in your clerkship. OR sign in to youtube with your personal account and subscribe to COMSEP Jones to get inspired as others post their ideas.

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Clerkship Administrators Update

Submitted by:

Donnita Pelser Donnita.pelser@wesleymc.com

The clerkship administrators are very interested in their professional development. This year we have incorporated our own journal club. An article is assigned and administrators meet over the phone to discuss the relevance of that article and how they might use it to enhance their role in medical education. Some of the articles we will have reviewed include, *The Challenges and Opportunities of Teaching "Generation Y"* and *The Impact of E-Learning in Medical Education*. The journal club has been very successful.

The group has identified those clerkship coordinators and administrators who have not attended COMSEP previously and we are sending them information on what is available and who to contact for more information. For anyone who is either interested or has an administrator who might be interested in joining us, please have them contact me at Donnita.pelser@wesleymc.com.

Due to the budget constraints in many programs, funds are not always available for clerkship administrators to attend COMSEP. The administrators planning group has been working on ways to provide scholarship funding for administrators to attend COMSEP. Fundraising and possible grant submissions are some of the ideas we are currently pursuing to help in this cause. We are open to ideas and resources that maybe suggested.

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An Opportunity! The COMSEP Grant Program

Submitted by:

Janet E. Fischel janet.fischel@stonybrookmedicine.edu

2013 Call for Proposals to Advance Scholarship in COMSEP are now being accepted to promote and support innovative educational scholarship that is designed, implemented, and evaluated by COMSEP members. Selected educational grant(s) will be supported for a total of \$5,000 (\$2,500 from COMSEP and \$2,500 match from the Chairperson at their institutions). This grant opportunity is supported, in part, by the Richard Sarkin Foundation and celebrates the late Dr. Sarkin's commitment to creative and innovative teaching and learning in Pediatrics. Please see our COMSEP website for the guidelines and review criteria for the COMSEP grants. **The 2013 proposals are due December, 4, 2012, by 5:00 PM, EST.** The COMSEP Grant Committee urges the membership to consider these grants as terrific opportunities to support a project that you consider to be innovative and important to pediatric education. Visit <http://www.comsep.org/scholarlyactivities/grants.cfm> for more information!

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Annual Survey

Submitted by:

Sherilyn Smith ssmit1@u.washington.edu

Thanks to all who submitted questions for inclusion in the annual survey for 2012. We are currently pilot testing the survey and plan to release it in Mid October. In just 3 short years, we have 10 COMSEP

members/groups who submitted questions for inclusion and we are well on our way to using the annual survey for both scholarship and to improve COMSEP as an organization.

As a COMSEP member, you will receive a link to the survey in October. The survey will remain open until December, but please don't procrastinate! We are counting on you to complete the survey and get that response rate up.

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Perspectives Column

Submitted by:

Susan Bannister susan.bannister@albertahealthservices.ca

Editor, Journal Club, *The Pediatric Educator*

Hello COMSEP!

I wanted to give you an update on the *Perspectives* column in Pediatrics.

Michael Dell, Linda Lewin, and Joe Gigante published a piece in the July 2012 issue entitled "What's the story? Expectations for oral case presentations". Amy Fleming, Bill Cutrer, Tyler Reimscheisel, and Joe Gigante will publish a manuscript in the November 2012 issue entitled "You too can teach clinical reasoning!" Our past articles are posted on the COMSEP web page. You may find these useful in faculty development at your institution.

We received 19 abstracts for consideration for publication in 2013 (last time we had a call for abstracts we received nine). Our editorial team read and ranked all of them and have selected three for publication in 2013. They are:

- "Stimulating Reflective Practice Across the Continuum of Learners" by Lavjay Butani, Rebecca Blankenburg, Michele Long
- "Bringing it Back to the Bedside: Family Centered Rounds as the New Classroom" by Suresh Nagappan, Nicole Chandler, Angela Hartsell
- "A Diagnostic Dilemma: The Differential Diagnosis of the Learner in Difficulty" by Stacey Bernstein, Adelle Atkinson, Tina Martimianakis
- Thank you to everyone for submitting an abstract and to our editorial team who read and rated these in less than one week.

Our editorial team consists of Chris Maloney (Associate Editor), Janice Hanson, Bill Raszka, Bob Dudas, and myself as Editor-in-Chief. Bob Dudas was asked to join our team based on his substantial publication record in the realm of medical education, ability to write well, knowledge of the medical education literature, ability to work to deadlines, and work within COMSEP. We are thrilled to have him join our team.

Our Perspectives column is well-viewed by the Editors of Pediatrics and the general readership. I feel our participation in this column assists in advancing COMSEP's strategic plan in several ways:

- provide a platform for review and dissemination of scholarly work
- promote professional development opportunities beyond the annual meeting
- create an intellectual community
- promote the scholarship of medical education
- develop accessible resources that all clerkship directors can use for local faculty development

Pediatrics has chosen to rename some of the features in their journal. COMSEP's publications will now appear under the name of "Monthly Feature" - same length and format as before, just with a different title

for the column. The "Perspectives" column will remain in the Journal but will now feature a different type of article than the ones we've been writing. The articles we have selected will still be published as we had anticipated.

I feel honored to lead this initiative.

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