



**COMSEP**  
Excellence in Medical Student  
Education in Pediatrics

# The Pediatric Educator

Council on Medical Student Education in Pediatrics

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June 2012  
Volume 19 Issue 1.1

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## Message from the Editor

**Welcome to our latest edition of the e-newsletter version of *The Pediatric Educator!*** We hope you have found the new format helpful and informative. Thank you for those who completed the survey we requested in our last issue. We appreciate your comments and hope to incorporate some of your suggestions.

We will plan to have set issue dates to assist in planning and consistency: June 1, October 1, February 1. Please give us feedback on how we can make the Educator more informative.

Sincerely,  
Paola Palma Sisto  
[Ppalmasisto@ccmckids.org](mailto:Ppalmasisto@ccmckids.org)

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## Message from the President



This edition of the Pediatric Educator is the first after our hugely successful meeting in Indianapolis. A record number of registrants (302 at final count, including 78 first-timers) enjoyed Hoosier Hospitality, the marvelous accommodations and meeting facilities at the JW Marriott Hotel, and a spectacular 20<sup>th</sup> birthday party at the Children's Museum of Indianapolis. Even the dinosaurs were dancing by the end of the evening! We all should thank Mitch Harris and his team for hosting COMSEP in such a grand fashion.

The Degnon Associates team once again worked its magic to make the meeting successful. Melissa Jun and Amy Schull ensured that the meeting ran smoothly. We missed working with Jillian Gann at the meeting. In case you do not already know, Penelope Katharyn Gann was born on April 30, 2012. Mitch Harris had an official COMSEP onesie made up for Penelope.

Past-president Chris White did his part to add Hoosier flair to the meeting by appearing in his race-car driver's outfit to narrate a video of his turn at the wheel of an Indy Race Car on the fabled "Brick Yard" oval at over 130 mph. The rest of us drove the simulator without the racing suit. I spent an embarrassing amount of time on the infield grass, and more than a few other drivers spun out or crashed on the virtual track.

Dr. Tom Inui, Regenstreif Professor of Medicine at Indiana University gave the Miller-Sarkin address, "Foundations of Humanism in Medicine: Evidence of a Life." He reflected on humanism and caring, made observations about COMSEP's longstanding involvement with humanism and professionalism, and recalled the legacy of Steve Miller and Rich Sarkin.

Presentation of the first ever COMSEP awards was another highlight of the meeting. **Larrie Greenberg** received the *COMSEP Achievement Award* in recognition of his many contributions to the organization and to medical student education in pediatrics. **Norm Berman and Leslie Fall** received the *COMSEP Teaching and Education Award* in recognition of their development of the Computer Assisted Learning in Pediatrics Program (CLIPP). **Gary Beck** received the *COMSEP Award for Excellence in Clerkship Administration* in recognition of his signal role in development of the Administrator Certificate Program.

Elizabeth Stuart from the Curriculum Task Force introduced the **Clinical Reasoning Collaborative**, a COMSEP initiated collaborative project that will eventually involve educators from APPD and APA. Workshops, task-force meetings, research presentations, and a poster session rounded out the meeting.

COMSEP has been invited to nominate one or two members to join a working group of the Federation of Pediatric Organizations (FOPO) to address the topic of Pediatric Training Across the Continuum. COMSEP is not (yet) a member of FOPO, although we certainly believe that our perspective on medical education in pediatrics is highly relevant for FOPO and warrants our inclusion in the group. A number of COMSEP members have volunteered to join in this important effort. I will keep you updated on the work of this group.

Pediatric Educational Excellence Across the Continuum (PEEAC 3) is in the early stages of development. The third biennial conference will be held in the fall of 2013. Ann Burke from APPD and I are co-leaders for this conference, which is aimed at pediatric educators who are early in their careers. Pradip Patel, Julie Byerley, and Starla Martinez have volunteered to represent COMSEP on the planning committee. Information will be made available about PEEAC3 in early 2013, but you can visit <http://peeac.org> to see details of PEEAC2, held in September 2011.

As summer approaches, the fourth year students will graduate from medical school and make the transition to residency. I expect that many of you are as busy as I am finishing the 2011-2012 academic year and preparing to greet the new third and fourth year students at the end of June. If you are involved in writing the "Chairman's Letter" for residency applications, you are no doubt challenged by the October 1 date for the MSPE release. This early date will further shorten the fourth "year" and will reduce our opportunity to evaluate students' progress before they begin their residency interviews. It also challenges our ability to provide Pediatric electives and sub-internships before release of the MSPE. The COMSEP Executive Committee held a discussion in

Indianapolis about developing a standardized letter of recommendation and will explore this idea further with our colleagues in the APPD. I anticipate that this topic will be discussed as one focus for our upcoming joint COMSEP/APPD meeting in Nashville, TN, April 10-14, 2013. I wish all of you well as the current academic year closes and the new year opens.

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. If you have not yet explored the new COMSEP web site, <http://comsep.org>, please take a few moments to do so.

Sincerely,

Jerry Woodhead  
[jerold-woodhead@uiowa.edu](mailto:jerold-woodhead@uiowa.edu)

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Calendar Item	Deadline / Dates	Additional info / website
Annual Survey	<i>Deadline:</i> June 30, 2012	Click the link below to complete the survey today!  <a href="#">Annual Survey Information</a>
2013 Annual Meeting with APPD Renaissance Nashville Nashville, TN	April 10-14, 2013	<b>Save the Date!</b> More information available soon!

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## COMSEP Task Force Updates

### [Curriculum Task Force](#)

*Submitted by:*

Sandy Sanguino [ssanguino@northwestern.edu](mailto:ssanguino@northwestern.edu)

Elizabeth Stuart [aestuart@stanford.edu](mailto:aestuart@stanford.edu)

Greg Toussaint [gregory.toussaint@wright.edu](mailto:gregory.toussaint@wright.edu)

#### **The Curriculum Task Force has launched a variety of projects this year:**

1. Mapping the written COMSEP curriculum to the ACGME competencies
2. Creating a brief version of the curriculum – to mirror the canuc-peds approach
3. Gathering ideas and making recommendations for pre-clerkship training in pediatrics
4. Finishing up user's guides for the Common Problem sets

#### **Clinical Reasoning Collaborative**

The Clinical Reasoning Collaborate is starting to pick up speed. During the COMSEP meeting, we got started with the following projects:

- Developing written goals and objectives specific to clinical reasoning

- Creating a series of “point-of-care illness scripts” to promote hypothesis-driven data-gathering
- Development of a Script Concordance Test.

During the APA Medical Student Education SIG at PAS, we discussed ideas for faculty development and use of the EHR as it relates to clinical reasoning. At the APA Committee meeting, we presented some of the plans and ideas discussed so far. Over the course of the next several months, we will continue to build collaboration among COMSEP, APPD, and APA - with the ultimate goal of providing a rich set of guidelines and resources to help educators promote and assess clinical reasoning.

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## Evaluation Task Force (ETF)

*Submitted by:*

Gwen McIntosh [gkmcinto@wisc.edu](mailto:gkmcinto@wisc.edu)

Starla Martinez [smartinez@chmca.org](mailto:smartinez@chmca.org)

Lisa Martin [limartin@lumc.edu](mailto:limartin@lumc.edu)

Thank you to all who participated in the lively discussions at our task force meetings in Indianapolis! The future work of the committee will be to a) to continue to develop workshops that target different aspects of evaluation while focusing on the essential principles of successful evaluation for submission to each COMSEP annual meeting and other venues such as APPD, APA, AAP and PEEAC meetings; and b) build a repository of useful evaluation tools for membership use. At the meeting we began looking at a variety of evaluation tools for different learner needs. We encourage those who started to modify some of the sample clinical evaluation forms to continue that work. If you have tools you would like to submit to the repository, please contact Gwen or Lisa. Some members also showed interest in developing workshops for next year’s meeting in Nashville. Let’s continue our strong showing! If anyone is looking for collaborators, let Gwen or Lisa know. We are happy to help you find someone or help in any other way needed.

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## Faculty Development Task Force

*Submitted by:*

Jenny Christner [jchristn@med.umich.edu](mailto:jchristn@med.umich.edu)

Steve Tinguely [stephen.tinguely@med.und.edu](mailto:stephen.tinguely@med.und.edu)

Alicia Freedy [Alicia.freedy@inova.org](mailto:Alicia.freedy@inova.org)

Hello everyone! It was wonderful to see everyone again at our Faculty Development Task Force Meetings. One of our major projects is establishing online faculty development resources for COMSEP. The draft of our first two videos on Orienting the Learner and Giving Feedback are on the website for all to view. You can find them at <http://www.comsep.org/taskforces/facultydevelopment.cfm>. Please feel free to utilize them and give us your FEEDBACK! Next we’ll be working on a Family Centered Rounds resource!

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## Research and Scholarship Task Force

*Submitted by:*

Robin English [rengli@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:rengli@lsuhsc.edu)  
Gary Beck [gbeck@unmc.edu](mailto:gbeck@unmc.edu)

The RSTF meetings were filled to capacity again this year. The level of enthusiasm of attendees was infectious. During the meeting in Indianapolis, we discussed the peer-review process for the poster submissions. The process was organized by Dr. Linda Tewksbury, ensuring each abstract had a team of experienced and new reviewers. Of the 54 abstracts submitted, 40 were chosen for poster presentations and 5 for platform presentations. The poster reception was well attended with many engaged in discussions of their scholarly work. This year posters were grouped by themes, which made it better for attendees to focus on those topics they are most interested. Congratulations to all who presented posters. Posters were again evaluated this year; the following were recognized as best posters:

- Best Research Poster: "Does Participation in SIM Improve Clinical Knowledge and Technical Skills Retention" awarded to Jeanine C. Ronan MD, Rebecca Tenney-Soeiro MD, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
- Best Innovation Poster: "Improving Clinical Evaluation Using an Online Competency Based Tool" awarded to Adam Weinstein MD, Alison Ricker BA, Matthew Braga MD, Todd Poret MD, Dartmouth Medical School
- Best Student Poster: "Use of Simulation to Teach Appropriate Management of a Crying Infant" awarded to Matthew W. Zackoff BS, Stephanie W. Israel MD, Whitney L. Browning MD, Amy E. Fleming MD, Vanderbilt School of Medicine

The task force had three workshops this year: portfolios, qualitative research and quantitative research. There was also a pre-conference workshop on grant writing. We used the meeting to discuss plans for workshops in 2013.

During the meeting, we used the time for individuals to discuss different projects. We have been working on developing a validated case to teach clinical reasoning and continued work was done on the subinternship project. Other projects being considered include scholarship in simulation and developing a global approach to evaluating teaching of clinical reasoning.

Thank you to everyone who made the 2012 meeting so successful. The task force is growing and there are many exciting projects to undertake.

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## [Learning Technology Task Force](#)

*Submitted by:*

Mark Hormann [mark.d.hormann@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:mark.d.hormann@uth.tmc.edu)

Robert Dudas [dude@jhmi.edu](mailto:dude@jhmi.edu)

The Learning and Technology Task Force remains interested in participating in the national conversation regarding the impact of Electronic Health Record implementation on medical student education. We are currently reviewing the draft of the Collaborative Statement from the Alliance for Clinical Education (soon to be published in Teaching and Learning in Medicine) which stresses the importance of student documentation in the medical record and the need to practice electronic order entry. Potential points of collaboration include the development of an EHR curriculum (strongly suggested by the ACE statement) as well as tools to evaluate student note writing in the EHR.

In addition, the LTTF is currently engaged in developing a mechanism for COMSEP members to review and share learning technology applications. We will be soliciting your experiences with various learning technologies and posting electronically for all COMSEP members to get inspiration and practical advice from their colleagues. If you have ideas about this or wish to be involved please let us know.

We welcome participation from ALL COMSEP members even if the LTTF is not your "primary" task force. Please contact us and let us know how you would like to be involved and we'll add you to the LTTF mailings.  
Mark and Bob

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## [Clerkship Administrators Update](#)

*Submitted by:*

Donnita Pelser [Donnita.pelser@wesleymc.com](mailto:Donnita.pelser@wesleymc.com)

Our recent meeting in Indianapolis was very successful. We had great attendance with many new faces joining us. Congratulations to Gary Beck on being recognized as COMSEP Administrator of the Year. We appreciate all of Gary's efforts on our behalf. We have many projects planned for this coming year. One of the new projects that is being undertaken, is reaching out to those administrators who don't know who we are or know how to become involved. For anyone who has an administrator who might be interested in joining us, please contact Donnita Pelser at [Donnita.pelser@wesleymc.com](mailto:Donnita.pelser@wesleymc.com).

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## [Webpage Update](#)

*Submitted by:*

Soumya Adhikari [Soumya.adhikari@gmail.com](mailto:Soumya.adhikari@gmail.com)

The revised COMSEP website went live April 19th. If you haven't had the chance to check it out... what are you waiting for? The address remains unchanged: [www.comsep.org](http://www.comsep.org). Since the site went live, we have been busy going through it page by page and link-by-link with the assistance of others to fine tune a number of the resources housed on the site. Those of you who have pointed out broken links... THANK YOU! We are working hard to get each of them fixed. Over the coming weeks and months we hope to reach out to the leadership of the various task forces with information regarding specific individuals who have graciously volunteered to represent the LTTF as liaisons to the other task forces to make sure the website is meeting the needs of each task force. If you have any ideas for the website, or simple say-dreams about "wouldn't it be cool if the website did \_\_\_" please don't hesitate to contact me at [soumya.adhikari@childrens.com](mailto:soumya.adhikari@childrens.com).

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## **An Opportunity! The COMSEP Grant Program**

*Submitted by:*

Janet E. Fischel [janet.fischel@stonybrookmedicine.edu](mailto:janet.fischel@stonybrookmedicine.edu)

Each year, COMSEP awards small grants to COMSEP members for projects of educational importance. Our *COMSEP Grant Program* is a venue that invites you to address an educational innovation or improve teaching or learning with a project of interest to pediatric education.

Please consider submitting a project proposal in response to the 2013 *Call for Proposals to Advance Scholarship in COMSEP* (only a click from our home page). The 2013 *Call for Proposals to Advance Scholarship in COMSEP*

will be posted on our web site (only a click away from the home page) early this summer, with an application deadline in early December, 2012. The announcement of funding decisions will take place at our Spring, 2013 COMSEP meeting. Previous grantees are welcome to apply with a new project or clearly delineated "next steps" in a previously completed project.

Your development as an educator, and your productivity in educational scholarship can benefit uniquely from such an award. Should your application be selected for funding, COMSEP contributes \$2,500., and the home institution Pediatrics Chair contributes \$2,500. for a maximum \$5000. grant to conduct the project.

The COMSEP Grant Committee views these projects as "seeds." They are relatively small, with the potential to grow as you see fit or as the data suggest. Some COMSEP members with these grants have gone on to submit and secure fuller support for next steps in their research.

We are eager to consider any innovations in pediatric medical education as grant themes. COMSEP has partnered with the Richard Sarkin Foundation in this effort, honoring Dr. Sarkin's creative and energetic approach to teaching and learning in Pediatrics. Some ideas for topics are offered here, but please feel free to generate your own by considering assessments you want to create, curricula you want to revise, or teaching quality issues you might want to conquer.

- Address the teaching/learning of some aspect of professionalism
- Enhance resident bedside teaching skills, resident leadership of work rounds, resident or faculty skills in providing effective feedback
- Develop and launch the validation of an assessment tool for a clinical skill, or an evaluation tool for one of your school's competencies

Please consider this great opportunity for a small grant. COMSEP is eager to promote and support innovative educational scholarship that is designed and implemented by COMSEP members.

Further, we celebrate the two 2012 COMSEP Grant awardees:

Dr. Jennifer Trainor, Richard Sarkin Foundation/COMSEP Awardee  
Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University  
Project Title: *Pediatric Skills Boot Camp for M4 Student*

Dr. Jimmy Beck  
Children's National Medical Center  
George Washington University  
Project Title: *Professional Identity Formation Among Medical Students Who Volunteer at a Medical Specialty Camp*

The COMSEP Grants Program is an exciting opportunity for COMSEP members to advance their educational scholarship with innovative research, to expand the scholarly activities of COMSEP members, pediatrics departments and the COMSEP organization as a whole. Please feel free to contact me at [janet.fischel@stonybrookmedicine.edu](mailto:janet.fischel@stonybrookmedicine.edu) with any questions.

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## COMSEP Journal Club: New Format!

Submitted by:

Susan Bannister [susan.bannister@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:susan.bannister@albertahealthservices.ca)  
Editor, Journal Club, *The Pediatric Educator*

Hello COMSEP!

I am the Editor of COMSEP's Journal Club and would like to share some exciting news with you about the new format for the Journal Club.

Last year, Bill Raszka and I submitted some questions to the annual survey to learn how the Journal Club could better support our membership. We learned that our members would like to see the Journal Club published more than twice a year, would like to see 2-6 reviews per edition, and would prefer that the reviews be of the same length or shorter.

Taking that into account, along with feedback from the Executive Committee, input from several reviewers, and my own reflections on this initiative, I have come up with the following new plan: The Journal Club will be published monthly, independently of the Pediatric Educator, and will contain 2-4 reviews per month (250-300 words) from recent journals. It will come out the first week of the month.

Over thirty COMSEP members have enthusiastically agreed to be reviewers for the Journal Club and I am thrilled to be working with them all.

We hope that the Journal Club will assist in accomplishing the following aspects of COMSEP's Strategic Plan:

1. Promote the scholarship of medical education.
2. Create an intellectual community.
3. Provide faculty development for members.
4. Deliver valued programs and services to foster member satisfaction.

Journal Clubs will be archived on our fancy new website - all previous Journal Club editions are there now.

I am really excited about the new format. The inaugural edition came out at the beginning of May and the June edition is due out soon! I have had feedback from several members who feel this new format is fantastic. We would love to receive your feedback!

Susan Bannister

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