



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



Dear COMSEP members;

It's Thanksgiving - in June. Not the usual time of year we expect it. Not the second Monday in October (Canada) or the fourth Thursday in November (U.S.). With one quick walk outside, you'll notice that the weather is warming and the flowers are blooming. As your President however, I can't wait until autumn to give thanks to all the dedicated members of COMSEP. We are a thriving organization, committed to improving medical student education in pediatrics - and we are all volunteers. Of course COMSEP provides a professional home for us to share experiences and scholarship, which in turn can help our careers. But a great deal of the time and effort you all put into COMSEP is selfless. Countless hours planning meetings, workshops, reviewing grant proposals, editing documents, meeting deadlines, etc. Thank you.

As I took over this position at the 2013 COMSEP/APPD combined meeting in Nashville, I thought to myself, "What keeps this organization's engine going?" The clear answer is our membership - the fuel for COMSEP's engine. As you will read in this newsletter, there is a great deal of activity happening within COMSEP, and many exciting things to come. And as you flip through these digital pages, remember that our newsletter comes via the volunteer efforts of Dr. Paola Palma Sisto of UConn. You see what I mean? That's an example of the fuel.

As COMSEP continues to grow and meet our mission, I would like you to think about a few questions. Should you have time, email me your answers (mbarone@jhmi.edu). 1) What does COMSEP mean to you professionally?, 2) What does COMSEP mean to you personally?, and finally, 3) How can COMSEP become indispensable - an organization in which membership is an absolute must for anybody who is dedicated to teaching medical students in pediatrics? The answers to these questions will be critically important as we move toward establishing ourselves as an independent organization. Said another way, "What is our member benefit and what should it be?" On the topic of independence, our discussions with the leadership of the Department Chairs' group (AMSPDC - Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs) have been very collegial and productive to date. In the meantime, we anticipate no change in membership structure or dues for this year, so please remind your chairs to respond to the recent email regarding dues for 2013-2014.

A few updates. Meeting planning is underway for the 2014 COMSEP Annual meeting in Ottawa. We have convened a meeting planning committee as well as a host committee. Our host committee has Drs. Susan Bannister, Marc Zucker and Gabrielle Weiler representing the Canadian Schools. Rest assured that this group plans to show us the best Canada has to offer. I suspect that the maple tree will have a supporting role.

In closing, I would like us to all remember our role in improving and promoting child health - which after all is the ultimate goal of any pediatric educational organization. The recent tragedies in Newtown, CT, Boston, MA and in Moore, OK have made me reflect on what a privilege it is to be involved in the care of children. This spirit has been buoyed by the convening of an APA committee on Childhood Poverty, led by Dr. Benard Dreyer of NYU. Recently, Dr. Elizabeth Stuart and I have been involved in conference calls for the Education Committee of this effort. Look for more updates and for opportunities to get involved. We are fortunate that the APA saw COMSEP playing a vital role in this committee. As a result of this initiative, which is also being supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics, we hope to more clearly demonstrate for our students the serious role that poverty plays in children's health.

My best wishes for a wonderful summer,

Michael Barone

mbarone@jhmi.edu

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Calendar Item	Deadline / Dates	Additional info / website
PEEAC Meeting Arlington, VA	October 4-5, 2013	Pediatric Educational Excellence Across the Continuum (PEEAC) www.peeac.org
AAMC Annual Meeting Philadelphia, PA	November 1-6, 2013	Meeting Website
2014 COMSEP Annual Meeting Ottawa, ON	March 27-29, 2014	Save the Date!

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COMSEP Task Force Updates

[Curriculum Task Force \(CTF\)](#)

Submitted by:

Elizabeth Stuart aestuart@stanford.edu

Jenny Soep Jennifer.Soep@childrenscolorado.org

As Sandy Sanguino and Greg Toussaint officially stepped down as CTF co-chairs this spring, we piloted the Executive Committee's new application process for appointing new task force leaders. Several Task Force members submitted applications, and we quickly discovered that it's not easy to select a new co-chair from among so many qualified and enthusiastic candidates! **Jenny Soep** has agreed to serve as a new co-chair this

year. In spring 2014, we will go through the application process again - and most likely expand to a three-person team.

During the meeting in Nashville, Task Force members broke out into workgroups to continue the projects they've been working on this past year. If you were not at the meeting but would like to be involved or reconnect with a Workgroup - or to learn more about any of the individual projects, please send an email to one of the Workgroup Chairs listed below.

	Workgroup Chair	Email
COMSEP Clinical Cases (Common Problem Set Users Guides)	Ed Clark	clark.edward@mccg.org
Written curriculum organized by ACGME Competency	Jenny Soep	Jennifer.Soep@childrenscolorado.org
Distilled, pocket-card version of written COMSEP curriculum	Michele Long	michele.long@ucsf.edu
Illness Scripts and related Point of Care Tools	Jon Gold	goldj@msu.edu
Script Concordance Test	Jennifer Jackson	jstancil@wakehealth.edu
Recommendations and resources for integration of pediatrics into the pre-clinical curriculum	Melissa Held	mheld@ccmckids.org

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

Submitted by:

Gwen McIntosh gkmcinto@wisc.edu

Lisa Martin limartin@lumc.edu

We enjoyed seeing old friends and meeting new ones at the joint COMSEP/APPD meeting in Nashville. We identified several projects that we plan to pursue. First, a work group will look at our Minimal Competencies document which we completed a few years ago to determine how these can be applied to "Milestones-style" evaluation forms. Second, we will be developing a repository of evaluation tools on our Members Only section of the COMSEP website. Look for a request for various types of evaluation forms in the future. Third, through the COMSEP annual survey we plan to look at how clerkships evaluate the communication skills of medical students. Lastly, if anyone is interested in becoming a future Evaluation task force leader, please contact Gwen or Lisa.

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[Faculty Development Task Force \(FDTF\)](#)

Submitted by:

Stephen Tinguely stephen.tinguely@med.und.edu

Alicia Freedy Alicia.freedy@inova.org

Stephanie Starr starr.stephanie@mayo.edu

The Faculty Development Task Force is organizing its work for the coming year around three core areas: 1. Evaluation and improvement of the workshop selection process, 2. Exploring ways to enhance mentorship of our members and 3. Improving the teaching skills of our members and of our home faculty. As we prioritize our work assignments we would welcome hearing from all of you regarding issues that you would like our task force to address this year. Please contact Alicia Freedy (Alicia.Freedy@inova.org), Stephanie Starr (starr.stephanie@mayo.edu), or Stephen Tinguely (stephen.tinguely@med.und.edu).

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[Research and Scholarship Task Force \(RSTF\)](#)

Submitted by:

Robin English rengli@lsuhsc.edu

Gary Beck gbeck@unmc.edu

The RSTF meeting was well attended again this year. During the meeting in Nashville, we discussed the peer-review process for the poster submissions. The process was organized by Drs. Linda Tewksbury and Jan Hansen, ensuring each abstract had a team of experienced and new reviewers. We accepted 34 poster presentations and 3 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:

"Medical Students' Experiences With Rotating Pediatric Hospitalists" Barry Seltz, MD; Alison Montgomery, MD; Lindsey Lane, MD; Jennifer Soep, MD; Janice Hanson, MD; Children's Hospital Colorado and University of Colorado School of Medicine, Aurora, CO

Best Innovation Posters (tie):

"Objective Structured Teaching Exercises (OSTEs) For Faculty: Feasibility and Acceptability" Cindy Osman, MD; Lucy Chang, MD; Linda Tewksbury, MD; New York University, New York, NY

And

"Modifying a Child Abuse Curriculum to Improve Third Year Medical Students' Ability to Identify Child Abuse Risk Factors." Antonia Chiesa, MD; Andrew Sirotnak, MD; Jennifer Soep, MD; Julie Noffsinger, MD; University of Colorado Denver, Aurora, CO

Best Trainee Poster:

"Professional Identity Formation Among Medical Students Who Volunteer at Medical Specialty Camps" awarded to

Jimmy Beck, MD; Terry Kind, MD; Katherine Chretien, MD; Craig DeWolfe, MD; Children's National Medical Center, Washington, DC

In conjunction with the APPD Research & Scholarship Task Force, we sponsored two workshops: educational scholarship pre-conference workshop and a workshop on mentoring trainees in research and scholarship. An additional workshop was conducted on validating a clinical reasoning instrument. Ideas for workshops at the 2013 meeting were discussed, which included reviewing abstracts and posters, busting barriers to dissemination, using ILPs in the clerkship, and program/curriculum evaluation.

During this meeting and the joint meeting with the APPD RSTF, we used the time for individuals to discuss different projects. We have been working on developing a validated case to teach clinical reasoning, use of simulation in clerkships, and the subintern project. We also discussed working with the Faculty Development Task Force to develop a research and scholarship track for members.

Thank you to everyone who made the 2013 meeting so successful. The task force continues to grow and there are many exciting projects to undertake.

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[Learning Technology Task Force \(LTF\)](#)

Submitted by:

Mark Hormann Mark.D.Hormann@uth.tmc.edu

Bob Dudas dude@jhmi.edu

The COMSEP LTF had a very energizing meeting in Nashville. We partnered with our colleagues in APPD to consider the latest and greatest technology to enhance our teaching of students and residents. Each year brings new ways to participate in teleconferences, screen sharing, online polls and surveys as well as increasing opportunities for cloud based storage options. Additionally, we discussed the increasing use of simulation in student education. We plan to gather a small group interested in reviewing the available literature to produce a "best practices" document to review at the meeting in 2014. We have also begun to put together short podcasts and tutorials on specific technologies to help educators integrate these technologies into their daily teaching. We will be seeking interested members to offer contributions. Finally, we are exploring various ways of increasing collaboration within the LTF and with our COMSEP colleagues by improving the functionality of the website and exploring new avenues of communication. As always, we welcome any questions and suggestions.

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[Clerkship Administrators Update](#)

Submitted by:

Donnita Pelser Donnita.pelser@wesleymc.com

Gretchen Shawver GShawver@stanford.edu

The Clerkship Administrator Group continues to grow! Recruitment efforts prior to the spring meeting brought in 14 new Coordinators. In addition, 17 coordinators attended the Certificate Program and will present their projects at the annual meeting in Ottawa next year.

Congratulations to the following Clerkship Administrators who presented their projects and received their certificates this year:

Julia Cheville, Annelisa Herter, Jill Hodsdon, Joan Jones, Zahra Kashani, Jamie Leavitt, Liza Olmos, Kristin Randall, Dawn Schultz, Teresa Urena

Our Educational Resources Committee is working to design a Clerkship Administrators tab for the COMSEP website. We hope to provide Administrators with tools, links and additional information to help support and foster new ideas at their home institution.

We continue to discuss ideas to develop a meeting registration scholarship for a first time attendee as well as a current member. COMSEP leadership is committed to supporting our efforts and we look forward to hopefully implementing this scholarship at the 2014 meeting.

If you have any questions or ideas for the Clerkship Administrator Group, please contact Gretchen Shawver or Donnita Pelsler.

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APA Medical Student Education Special Interest Group Update

Submitted by:

APA Medical Student Education SIG Co-chairs:

Michele Long Michele.long@ucsf.edu

Lavjay Butani Lavjay.butani@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu

Greetings from the Academic Pediatric Association (APA) Medical Student Education SIG, which is a home to all with a passion for teaching and for learning new educational techniques. We had a great SIG session at PAS 2013, which was a combined session with the Teaching in Community Settings SIG. A big thanks to COMSEP for providing meeting refreshments!

The first part of our session was a mini-workshop in which the participants discussed strategies on how to enhance time-limited teaching encounters through use of reflection. Michael Barone, COMSEP president, topped it all off with a wonderful facilitated discussion on how to foster and teach humanism even in these brief learner-student encounter settings. Michael shared an article about teaching humanism in medicine ([BRANCH.](#)) A table of reflective strategies was shared as well ([REFLECTIVE.](#))

The second part of the SIG session started off with a panel discussion facilitated by Chris Peltier and Scott Krugman, co-chairs of the Teaching in Community Settings SIG that focused on community setting educators and on working effectively with community faculty. The panel featured the clerkship director perspective, coordinator perspective, and the perspective of the Teaching in Community Settings SIG chairs. Panel guests included Linda Lewin, University of Maryland and Corrine Lehman, University of Cincinnati. The panel discussion generated ideas to enhance the connection between community preceptors and directors/coordinators (*see below in italics*).

As SIG chairs we wrapped up the session by eliciting ideas and topics for future sessions and ideas on how to serve you all better. We hope to incorporate these as we think about PAS 2014 in Vancouver, and are always open to other ideas from the COMSEP leadership, the APA Education Committee, and any and all of you.

On a final note, there is work in the APA to create a Wiki Link for each SIG for document sharing. We hope to post documents from the SIG sessions of relevance on this WIKI, which should be available some time in 2013.

TEACHING IN COMMUNITY SETTINGS SIG SESSION- PAS D.C. 2013

Ideas from Panel Session to Enhance Connection between Director/Coordinators and Community Preceptors

- Create bonds with the office managers and staff at the Preceptor sites—they can be helpful in finding placements, other student learning when schedules change last minute
- Create a Listserv to distribute teaching tips, curricular changes, ETC.
- Offer to pay COMSEP dues
- Look into new AAMC guidelines allowing for AMA Category 1 CME hours credit for teaching-relating activities (clarification: needs to be through an accredited CME department like through an academic center's CME approval)
- Visit sites and engage faculty with brief micro skills workshops/sessions
- Gift certificates for community facilitators

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New Section in the Educator, COMSEP newsletter: "Great Ideas"

"Great Ideas" for medical student education

In an effort to continue to share our collective knowledge and practices on medical student education beyond our annual COMSEP meeting, we would like to start a new section in the Educator to showcase great resources our members have either developed themselves or have found from other resources and implemented in their programs with impactful results. This would be an opportunity to not only share knowledge, but add to your CV as a non-peer reviewed publication. We would showcase one submission per edition. The following format would be required:

- Title
- Submitted by: name, role, and institution
- Description of Resource
- How resource was incorporated into the submitter's medical education program
- Impact of this resource on the program
- Lessons learned

Be sure to add all relevant references to work if it is not the submitter's original work, including location the resource was found, resource authors and their institutions.

Keep the submission to 350 words or less. Submissions may be edited for formatting purposes.

We will send out a deadline for our October Edition of the Educator in the summer.

Thank you
Paola Palma Sisto
Editor, Pediatric Educator, COMSEP

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