



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 is hard to believe that the pumpkins are out and the kids will be trick or treating before you know it! Do you dress up for Halloween at work? I know that this tradition brings so many smiles to the patients here at home. Don't be afraid to tweet a picture! (@COMSEPediatrics)

Your COMSEP Executive Committee has been hard at work this summer, sifting through your responses to our strategic planning questions, meeting in September for the hard work of planning for the future and now working to implement new ideas. I am looking forward to sharing more about the *COMSEP Vision 2020* with you at the St. Louis meeting in April. I want to give a big thank you to everyone who completed the surveys this summer and to the members of the Executive Committee who volunteered their time to participate in the strategic planning meeting. You are the best!

Here are few brief updates on some COMSEP projects and resources:

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[Community Preceptor Project](#)

Community Preceptor Project: A great group from COMSEP (Lisa Leggio, Mike Baron, Michael Ryan, Julie Byerley, Julia Belkowitz and Chris Peltier) have been working with a group of pediatric chairmen (from AMSPDC) to explore the current status of how we support, recruit and retain community preceptors. There is a survey that is going out to department chairs. Don't be surprised if you are asked to help fill it out (this was part of the instructions for the survey!!). We hope that the results of this work will help us define best practices to continue to nurture our very valuable teaching faculty.

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[Community Mentoring Program](#)

COMSEP Mentoring Program: We launched a pilot project this year to create an enhanced mentoring network within COMSEP. The pilot focuses on mentoring around scholarship, but we anticipate in the future we will expand to include other aspects of career development for educators. The following mentor-mentee pairs were selected and have started the process of developing projects and moving toward success.

Mentor	Mentee
Jennifer Christner	Anne Van Garsse
Mary Rocha Janice Hanson	Ian Chau Joseph Jackson
Colin Sox Joe Gigante	Marta King Nick Potisek
Thanakorn Jirasevijinda (TJ)	Fatima Aly

Thank you to everyone for volunteering for this program (both mentors and mentees!). We hope that in addition to individualized mentoring, there will be opportunities for peer mentoring and community building within the group. They will have time/a place set aside at the COMSEP meeting to continue to work on projects and identify ways to advance their careers.

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[Discussion Board](#)

Discussion board: In the spring, the Faculty Development Taskforce spearheaded a move to create a COMSEP discussion board to facilitate exchange of ideas among our members. Soumya Adhkari, Stephanie Starr and Pradip Patel lead the development and piloting of this new tool. More information about can be found [here](#). Thank you to Soumya, Stephanie and Pradip for making this idea possible.

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[Important Dates](#)

Don't forget important dates!

Workshop and Abstract submissions are due: October 29, 2015

Grant applications are due: December 3, 2015

The 2016 COMSEP meeting: April 6-9, 2015

Theme: ***The Spirit of Exploration: New Frontiers in Medical Education***

Miller Sarkin Speaker: [Dr. Lewis First University of Vermont...](#) a really GREAT speaker!

Dinner Venue: [City Museum](#)

[Check it Out](#)

Have you seen [the video](#) about COMSEP on our website?

This is the masterful work of Matt Eberly; pass on the link to others in your institution who would like to know more about COMSEP (and all the innovative teaching you do!)

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[Faculty Development Videos](#)

[Faculty development videos:](#)

These are GREAT resources...don't reinvent the wheel. Send your faculty (or help them find) these resources on our webpage (Educational resources tab-faculty development link)

Go peek at the future meeting announcements on the COMSEP website...the time and place for the 2017 meeting has been set. More details to follow in the spring.

Finally, a big THANK YOU to Paola Palmo Sisto who has overseen the editing of the Educator for many years! What a great job she has done keeping us up to date about what COMSEP is doing. She has decided to pass the reigns on to another COMSEP member. Look for more information about how to become involved with the Educator in the upcoming months.

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[More about the Discussion Board](#)

After many months of planning, we are pleased to announce the availability of the brand new COMSEP Discussion Board. The COMSEP listserv has long supported collaboration and learning from each other's experiences. Hundreds, if not thousands of questions, ideas, proposed solutions and/or suggestions have been shared by our members with each other through the listserv. We are forever grateful to David Levine and Bruce Morgenstern for moderating the listserv for so many years.

To be clear – our listserv is not going away. It remains available to all, and David and Bruce have graciously agreed to continue to moderate it.

At the same time, listservs have their advantages and disadvantages, and our current web-hosting service allows us to push our collaboration, scholarship and communication forward by making this new forum available to our general membership.

We have built the discussion board to provide a home for our discussions that is archived, searchable and later able to be referenced by new members or by others to whom a query might not have been relevant at the time of the discussion but for whom it becomes relevant later.

The Discussion Board will be available to anyone who is logged in to the COMSEP website. A formal “terms of use” is available [here](#).

When you are trying to reach the general membership of COMSEP, we propose the following suggestions as to whether to post your query on the listserv or the discussion board.

- The **listserv** is recommended for: simple queries or time-sensitive announcements meant for rapid distribution.
 - For example:
 - If you are about to negotiate with your Chair for protected time for an associate clerkship director and want to know how many of your colleagues have protected time for a similar role, you might post the question on the listserv to allow you to collect those responses

- The **discussion board** is recommended for: more complex queries inviting people to share their thought processes and / or approaches to dealing with complex curricular challenges and for posting collated results of both simple and complex queries, so that your results are discoverable to anyone with similar questions down the road.
 - For example:
 - *At my institution we don't currently write "Chair's letters" in support of our students applying to Pediatrics. I am curious about the opinion of others on the plusses and minuses of the Chair's Letter. Any thoughts appreciated...*
 - If you were posting results regarding a recent query regarding FTEs for clerkship leadership, you should summarize your question and post the results on the discussion board:
 - *Ex: I recently queried the membership of COMSEP to share the %FTE they received in support of their role as clerkship director. Thanks to all who replied. Tabulated responses below:*

% FTE	# of respondents	% felt was adequate
10	15/107	50%
20	30/107	50%
30	24/107	50%
40	12/107	50%
50	14/107	85%
>50	9/107	85%

An FAQ about the discussion board is available [here](#). Individual users are able to customize their notification settings by subscribing to individual threads or by requesting a weekly digest of all threads by clicking [here](#).

One last parting photo from this phenomenal summer and fall in the Pacific Northwest:



Make sure you take time to pursue the things that bring you joy (and spend time with the people you care about!)

All the best, Sherilyn Smith, COMSEP President (2015-2017)



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