



COMSEP

Excellence in Medical Student
Education in Pediatrics

The Pediatric Educator

Council on Medical Student Education in Pediatrics

In this issue...

August 2014
Volume 21 Issue 3

[Message from Dr. Michael Barone, COMSEP President](#)

[COMSEP Calendar](#)

Task Force Updates:

[Curriculum Task Force](#)

[Evaluation Task Force](#)

[Faculty Development Task Force](#)

[Research and Scholarship Task Force](#)

[COMSEP Webmaster Update](#)

[New Section in the Educator, Job Postings](#)

Message from the President



Dear members;

It's summer - a time of year that allows for occasionally quieting the mind, reconnecting with nature, and thinking about what's important to us personally and professionally. I am sure I speak for many of us when I say that such times of quiet reflection seem to be increasingly rare. Nevertheless, I always look forward to the summertime providing them.

I've spent a good deal of time this summer thinking about old memories and human connections. We've had some illness in our family, we are sending our second daughter off to college, and I seem to be missing the presence of some terrific medical students who are now training elsewhere. Despite our busy lives, we are fortunate as pediatricians, educators, and administrators to work in environments where meaningful memories seem to form every day, and human connections occur all the time - with patients, learners, and colleagues. So, while COMSEP is our home for academic productivity and scholarship, I hope most of you agree that it's also our community for human connections.

As the summer winds down, we will approach a date that requires some reflection and memory. Nearly 10 years ago, on October 19, 2004, Drs. Steve Miller and Rich Sarkin were killed in a tragic plane crash on their way to speak about humanism in medicine in Kirksville, MO. Last year, in Ottawa, we did our best to remember Rich and Steve thanks to Lyuba Konopasek's lovely opening comments at the Miller-Sarkin lecture, and the presence of Marcia Sarkin at our meeting. As October gets closer however, the concept of an "anniversary" doesn't quite fit. I thank Ken Roberts for teaching me about the word *yahrzeit*, a Yiddish word that refers to an annual memorial, on a specific date, for relatives or friends who have left us. So, as we begin to prepare for our 10th meeting without two memorable colleagues, I'd like to suggest some ways to remember, not mourn, Rich and Steve.

1 - First, we are meeting in New Orleans (!) and nothing would have made Steve and Rich more pleased than a high quality academic meeting with a serious dose of fun. Could there possibly be a better place than New Orleans for that? Let's deliver on this one.

2- Let's remember the important human connections which Rich and Steve helped to create - and how, along with others, they shaped COMSEP into an organization that cares deeply about its members succeeding in medical education. Let's pledge to make COMSEP more welcoming than ever to new members, while keeping it enjoyable and sustaining to those who have been around for a few years.

3 - Let's keep alive Rich and Steve's passion for humanism in medicine. I urge you to go back and read the 1999 paper By Steve Miller and Hilary Schmidt on the Habit of Humanism <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/10429589> . I also encourage you to speak to your chairs (or whoever schedules your 2014-2015 Grand Rounds) about putting the topic of humanism front and center in October 2014. Perhaps this could even turn into a recurring conference such as the one given in Rich's honor at the Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo.

<http://www.kaleidahealth.org/childrens/services/display.asp?s=741>

Next, read Dr. John Driscoll's remembrance of Steve and Rich which, aside from discussing their impact on medical education, reminds us that the Pediatric Department Chairs discussed "designating the month of October as "Miller/Sarkin month," as a means of dedicating time in the form of Grand Rounds, Chief of Service Rounds, or a local program developed to recognize the importance of the role of humanism in pediatric education and thereby recognize their efforts." Please mention this to your department chairs.

<http://www.jpeds.com/article/S0022-3476%2805%2901177-7/abstract>

Lastly, I would like us to focus on how role modeling the every day habit of humanism guides us with our patients and learners. If you are doing something exciting to promote humanism at your institution(s), please consider submitting an abstract or workshop proposal to our 2015 COMSEP meeting. The deadline dates are in this edition of the *Pediatric Educator*.

The theme of our meeting in New Orleans will be: Coming Back Stronger: Finding Opportunities in Change. The Planning Committee and the Host Committee are doing a spectacular job planning a memorable meeting, which will include collaboration as well as a celebration of COMSEP's first meeting as an independent organization. After a significant tragedy 10 years ago, which took two of our beloved members, COMSEP as an organization has indeed come back strong. While we will never forget the influence of two amazing educators, mentors, friends and scholars, our organization is as strong as ever, and poised to continue thriving. Thanks to all of you who have made - and continue to make COMSEP our home for academic productivity and scholarship in pediatric medical education, in addition to making it our community for human connections.

Michael Barone

mbarone@jhmi.edu

[Back to top](#)

Calendar Item	Deadline / Dates	Additional info / website
COMSEP Awards	August 5 th -December 15 th	COMSEP Awards Webpage
COMSEP Grants	Opening September 2014-Deadline December 5 th	COMSEP Grants Webpage
Call for 2015 Workshops and Abstracts	Submissions open September 2 nd – October 28 th	2015 meeting theme: “Coming back stronger; finding opportunities in change”
Annual Meeting 2015	March 11-14, 2015	InterContinental New Orleans New Orleans, LA

[Back to top](#)

COMSEP Task Force Updates

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

Submitted by:

Elizabeth Stuart aestuart@stanford.edu

April O. Buchanan abuchanan@ghs.org

Jenny Soep Jennifer.Soep@childrenscolorado.org

The Curriculum Task Force is continuing their work on developing a pre-clerkship curriculum, point of care illness scripts and the COMSEP Clinical Cases (C3). We are also excited to work on the cross-task force project to develop an approach to the Core Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs) for the clerkship.

[Back to top](#)

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

Submitted by:

Gwen McIntosh gkmcinto@wisc.edu

Lisa Martin martinlisa1012@gmail.com

We hope everyone is enjoying summertime. We had a productive and focused meeting in Ottawa. Our task force now continues to work on several projects that we identified as priorities at the meeting. First, through the COMSEP annual survey, we are examining the elements clerkship directors use in determining clerkship grades and the factors contributing to clerkship failures. Second, we will be developing a library 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; please reply and send us your favorite evaluation tools. Our goal is to develop a collection of readily available tools for members to use for their specific evaluation needs. Third, we have a group actively planning a workshop on educational hand-offs to submit for the New Orleans meeting. Finally, we will continue to collaborate with the other task forces on the EPA 4 project.

[Back to top](#)

Faculty Development Task Force (FDTF)

Submitted by:

Sharon Sholiton Sharon_Sholiton@rush.edu
Alicia Freedy Alicia.freedy@inova.org
Stephanie Starr starr.stephanie@mayo.edu
Corinne Lehmann corinne.lehmann@cchmc.org

The Faculty Development Task Force has been able to continue the momentum from our annual meeting moving many of our task force projects forward. The proposal for our “pilot” new mentoring program is scheduled to be completed and presented to the Executive Committee by the end of August. Our updated Workshop Policy Draft has been reviewed by our task force, the leaders of all other task forces and is awaiting approval by the Executive Committee. Once approved, the updated policy will be posted on the COMSEP website and available during the call for 2015 workshops. The dynamic duo of Matt Eberly and Chris White have been hard at work creating a ‘trailer’ to publicize our awesome faculty development modules, due out this fall. Steve Tinguely has spearheaded the creation of our newcomers welcoming package with much enthusiasm! Thanks to everyone for their continued time and energy since the annual meeting, and please let us know if you are interested in getting involved in any of our exciting projects.

[Back to top](#)

Research and Scholarship Task Force (RSTF)

Submitted by:

Robin English rengli@lsuhsc.edu
Gary Beck gbeck@unmc.edu
Jocelyn Schiller johuang@med.umich.edu

The RSTF meetings were well attended in Ottawa. During the meeting, we discussed the peer-review process for the poster submissions. The process was again organized by Drs. Linda Tewksbury and Jan Hansen, ensuring each abstract had a team of experienced and new reviewers. We had 81 abstracts submitted; 54 were accepted for poster presentations and 5 platform presentations. The poster reception was well attended with many engaged in discussions of their scholarly work. Congratulations to all who presented posters. Posters were again evaluated this year; the following were recognized as best posters:

Best Research Poster:

Norman Berman, MD, et al. Development and validation of a cognitive engagement metric

Best Innovation Posters:

Maria Lolita Alkureishi, MD, et al. A novel curriculum to teach patient-centered electronic medical record use

Best Trainee Poster:

Michael P. Goldman, MD, et al. Computer tutorials coupled with medical student patient encounters: The effect of presentation order.

We sponsored two workshops: “Write it up: Tips for getting published” and “Achieving Excellence: Reviewing, Writing and Editing Abstracts”. Ideas for workshops at the 2015 meeting were discussed, which included how to prepare posters, qualitative research methods, and MedEdPORTAL.

During this meeting there was also a discussion about inter-task force collaboration, functioning as a workgroup, which will look at EPA 4. This workgroup will need some representatives from the RSTF to help address ideas through the lens of research and scholarship. Drs. Coral Steffey and Caroline Paul volunteered for this workgroup. Additionally, a group of individuals looking at what it means to entrust someone, which is related to EPA 4. Dr. Jan Hanson is taking the lead on this project. Others involved in this project at this time are Drs. Heather Burrows, Rebecca Tenney-Soeiro, Robin English, David Bowman, and Jean Petershack.

The quality of the feedback on the poster reviews was also discussed as a project. Dr. English suggested looking at the entire abstract review process from initial review to poster presentation. A group volunteered to work on this project: Drs. Sherilyn Smith, Amal Khidir, Linda Tewksbury, Jocelyn Schiller, Mary Rocha, and Gary Beck. The group discussed how much the abstract review process has changed over the past several years. Drs. Smith and Tewksbury were able to identify specific times when forms were changed and how some of the review processes were modified. Drs. Beck, Khidir, and Rocha agreed to develop a survey for the poster reviewers to complete to identify how to improve the poster review form and process to improve reliability of the evaluation tool.

Thank you to everyone who made the 2014 meeting so successful. The task force continues to grow and there are many exciting projects to undertake.

[Back to top](#)

[Webmaster](#)

Submitted by:

Soumya Adhikari SOUMYA.ADHIKARI@childrens.com

Website Usage Summary for 2014:

January 1 - March 31st:

8621 total visits

Most popular pages: Annual Meeting (1422 page views)

Multimedia Teaching Tools (1073 page views)

Curriculum Objectives (528 page views)

MS3 Curriculum (434 page views)

March 31 - June 30th

4529 page views

Most popular pages:

Multimedia Teaching Tools (768 page views)

Curriculum Objectives (426 page views)

Annual Meeting (326 page views)

Did you know?

In the past 6 months, we've had traffic to our website from as far away as China (13 visits), Russia (12 visits), Australia (34 visits) and Egypt (20 visits)! Mobile browsers made up roughly 16% of our traffic.

Have a website metric that would be useful to you? Or any other thoughts about our website? Contact me: soumya.adhikari@childrens.com

[Back to top](#)

New Section in the Educator, Job Postings

Role / Title: Associate Dean for Curriculum

Institution: Medical College of Georgia; Augusta, Georgia

Starting Date: As soon as the position is filled

Job Description / Responsibilities:

- Assist the Senior Associate Dean for Curriculum by interacting with Year 1 and Year 2 curriculum leaders, module, component, and clerkship directors in the development and coordination of the curriculum.
- Work with the Senior Associate Dean for Curriculum and the associate deans for evaluation and regional campus coordination in developing, implementing, and assessing learning experiences for MCG medical students on the Augusta campus and four regional clinical campuses.
 - Collaborate with the associate dean for regional campus coordination, senior associate dean for curriculum, vice dean for academic affairs, associate dean for evaluation, and MCG curriculum committees to develop, implement, and assess high quality learning experiences
- Interact closely with MCG students. This includes ensuring delivery of core curriculum content, ensuring students receive feedback on their performance and receive timely completion of all evaluations, and ensuring students' compliance with meeting administrative expectations (e.g., electronic tracking of experiences, completing evaluations).

Minimum Qualifications

- PhD, EDD, MD, or DO degree
- Personal commitment to educational excellence
- Enthusiasm to serve as a faculty role model as demonstrated by teaching and mentoring medical students, engaging in faculty development, and serving as an educational administrator
- Candidates should have curriculum and/or program development experience
- Experience in the leadership of clinical clerkship programs preferred

Contact information: For a more detailed description of this position, application instructions or further information contact Chris White, MD (cwhite@gru.edu).

[Back to top](#)

Editor:

Paola Palma Sisto, MD
Connecticut Children's Medical Center
Hartford, CT

Ppalmasisto@connecticutchildrens.org

COMSEP Executive Office
6728 Old McLean Village Drive
McLean, VA 22101

Phone: (703) 556-9222

Fax: (703) 556-8729

info@comsep.org www.comsep.org