



# COMSEP

Better Health for All Patients  
Through Pediatric Education

## The Pediatric Educator

Council on Medical Student Education in Pediatrics

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### Message from the President

June is a time of change. Students graduate from high school, college, and medical school; new interns start their training; residents move to the next steps in their careers and new faculty members start their jobs. As I hike in the Pacific Northwest, I see change everywhere different flowers at various elevations and spring draws to an end. It is reassuring to me to see the continuous renewal in many facets of our life as we decide what to tackle next.

The COMSEP Executive Committee is moving forward to help our organization continue to grow, innovate and thrive. Some of the initiatives we discussed at the St. Louis meeting are being elaborated and next steps determined. The Meeting Planning Committee has reviewed your feedback on the St. Louis meeting and is busy creating exciting opportunities for the Portland meeting in 2017. We also will be highlighting the work of our great task forces in the issues of the Educator throughout the summer and fall to keep you abreast of the initiatives and progress that you all started in the spring.

Two quotes about change...(there are SO many!)

*Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world. For, indeed, that's all who ever have.-  
Margaret Mead*

*The thing that lies at the foundation of positive change, the way I see it, is service to a fellow human being.  
Lech Wales*

All the best,

Sherilyn

Sherilyn Smith, MD  
COMSEP President



*White Bitterroot*

*Courtesy of Stephen Cobert, MD*

## Task Force Updates and Highlights

Congratulations to our new task force leaders:

- **Caroline Paul:** Research and Scholarship Task Force
- **Phil Malouf:** Learning Technology Task Force

The Executive Committee is reviewing the recommendation from two other task forces...stay tuned for announcements soon!

### **Curriculum Task Force:**

The **High-Value Care** group developed curricula and identified resources for teaching high-value care to students, which are [now available](#).

Ongoing projects include:

1. Work on the pre-clerkship pediatric curriculum
2. COMSEP Clinical Cases (Common Problem Set Users Guides): distribution of the clinical cases and teacher's guides.
3. Illness Scripts and related Point of Care Tools: continued peer review of the illness scripts and development of a plan for distribution.
4. M4 Workgroup: This group will focus on using how the M4 year in a productive way for students going into pediatric residency. Discussion items will be: what rotations and electives are helpful to students entering pediatric residency, an ILP and checklist for M4 students across the M4 year, the need and purpose of boot

camps and a M4 director description which can be used by members when negotiating for this position at their school.

5. EPA Workgroup (multi task force): The group is reviewing the literature around EPAs, what program directors are looking for in incoming interns, and considering EPAs across the continuum.

### **COMSEP Survey**

I would like to thank **Colin Sox** for his leadership of the COMSEP Annual Survey Committee. The annual survey has resulted in multiple publications and numerous presentations for COMSEP members since 2009. Last year, we shifted the survey to purely a research tool and this year's focus was on faculty members' perceptions and practices on:

- OSCEs
- Learner Handoff Strategies
- Written H&Ps
- Boot camps for medical students

A total of 165 COMSEP members representing 96 medical schools participated in the 2016 COMSEP survey. We hope next year we have an even higher participation rate!

**Lavjay Butani** will be heading up the committee starting in July and Colin will continue to be an active member. Look for the request for questions in the fall and a new round of questions around the spring meeting

### **Working Group Updates**

Please look for a follow up survey about unmatched students coming soon! We are hoping to plan a webinar to review what we have learned so far about this topic to help clerkship directors with career advising for 2016-17.

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