



# COMSEP

Better Health for All Patients  
Through Pediatric Education

## The Pediatric Educator

Council on Medical Student Education in Pediatrics

August, 2016

Volume 22, Issue 8

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### Message from the President

Summer vacations...the lure of time away, less scheduling, spending time with family and friends with the goal of recharging for the rest of the year. As we move through the long days of summer, I hope you all take time to pause and appreciate the small things that provide inspiration for our work. You may notice them as you spend time away from work or as you walk through the halls of your hospitals, clinics and schools. As the COMSEP Executive Committee continues to meet throughout the summer, they are a source of inspiration to me! They are thoughtful and reflective about decisions, hard-working and organized. They are also a fun bunch of people, exploring the world and finding new adventures. The turmoil in the world can be overwhelming if we do not pause and appreciate the resources we have to meet the challenges we face. I hope that you take time to nurture your relationships and find time to appreciate the beauty in what we do and in the world around us.

*“Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer’s day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time.”—John Lubbock, *The Use Of Life**

*“In the summer, the days were long, stretching into each other. Out of school, everything was on pause and yet happening at the same time, this collection of weeks when anything was possible.” —Sarah Dessen, *Along for the Ride**

*“Summer, after all, is a time when wonderful things can happen to quiet people. For those few months, you’re not required to be who everyone thinks you are, and that cut-grass smell in the air and the chance to dive into the deep end of a pool give you a courage you don’t have the rest of the year. You can be grateful and easy, with no eyes on you, and no past. Summer just opens the door and lets you out.” —Deb Caletti, *Honey, Baby, Sweetheart**



All the Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sherilyn Smith".

Sherilyn Smith, MD  
COMSEP President, 2015-2017

## Taskforce Updates and Highlights

Congratulations to our new Taskforce leaders:

- **Amy Creel:** Faculty Development Taskforce
- **Valli Annamalai:** Evaluation Taskforce
- **Jon Gold:** Curriculum Taskforce

### Updates from the Evaluation Taskforce

There are multiple working groups busy this summer:

- Evaluation Tools Library Reviewer Group : Individuals in this group will be reviewers for evaluation tools submitted for possible acceptance into our new Evaluation Tools Library on the COMSEP website
- SWEET (Student Workplace-based Easy Evaluation Tool) Working Group: This group is working on building an evaluation tool to be used by preceptors in the workplace
- Forward Feeding/Educational Handoffs Working Group: will create a self-assessment form based on EPA's/ milestones. The self-assessment form is to be used by the 4th year medical students that plan to go into Pediatrics.
- Using Administrators/others to help students develop self-directed ILPs Working Group : Administrator members of this Task Force are looking forward to assisting the 4th year medical students with creating an ILP based on the self-assessment form that the Forward Feeding/Educational Handoffs Working Group is working on. The administrators' perception is that the students are more honest on self-assessing their skills when they do it with somebody that is not their evaluator.
- EPA Collaboration Working Group
- EMR self-assessment tool validation Working Group

### Website Committee

One of the major strategic initiatives for COMSEP in the next year is to enhance the functionality of our website. This work started in the fall of 2015 and is moving forward with the goal of an updated website by the 2017 COMSEP Annual Meeting. To achieve this goal, the chair of the website committee **Soumya Adhikari**, with **Wilbur Pan** (Faculty Development Taskforce leader) and **Susan Bannister** (President-Elect) have brought together members of all the taskforces to devise a detailed plan by the end of the summer. The COMSEP Executive Committee will then review the proposal and make decisions about funding and timelines in September.

### Unmatched Student Working Group

The Unmatched Student Working Group has synthesized the data they gathered from student affairs deans and are in the process of planning a career advising webinar for later in the summer to help COMSEP members help students who may be at risk for not matching. Look for another announcement of the date and time via the listserv. The webinar will be recorded and available for members via the COMSEP website.

## Annual Meeting Update

The meeting planning committee is putting the final touches on the preliminary program which will be released later in the summer to help plan your travel. The Executive Committee approved two pilot preconference workshops for the upcoming annual meeting in April 2017.

- An expansion of the current New Clerkship Directors' preconference workshop to allow more time to cover important topics in depth and allow attendees to explore other aspects of career development in medical educations.
- A leadership development workshop, focused on developing awareness of their own leadership styles, understanding the resources needed to be a successful leader in undergraduate medical education, and leadership skills development.

The 2017 COMSEP Annual Meeting will be held **March 29-April 1, 2017 in Portland, OR**. COMSEP will be accepting submissions for abstracts and workshops in September. More information will be coming soon!

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