



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

Happy New Year COMSEP!

I am so looking forward to what 2016 will bring. I have really enjoyed working with so many of you on interesting projects and sharing innovative ideas. I have to admit it was HIGHLY intimidating taking over the reins from Mike Barone...but of course he helped me through and the rest of the COMSEP members have been terrific!

The executive committee continues to work on bringing the COMSEP strategic plan to life. Participating in a strategic planning event was new to me and I learned a lot through this process. I thought I would share some of the key concepts and a little bit about the fruits of our labor.

First of all, to have an effective strategic plan, you have to do a lot of research and information gathering. We started with you all (remember that survey in the summer?) examining the vision and mission and then turning to the work at hand. We reached out to other leaders and asked for their input as well. After sifting through your responses, synthesizing and interpreting them, we met and dove in.

The next key ingredient is having dedicated great people. Just picture an intensely focused group, wrangling with words to capture the spirit of COMSEP and what we want to accomplish...lively discussion about the meaning and implications of words, laughter, respectful listening and eventually consensus (but *not* with the first round of discussion!).

The final element is realizing that you are never done! COMSEP is a dynamic organization and as you all know, continuous reflection on what you are doing, being dedicated to improving what you do and being open to new ideas are core values of all educators. COMSEP will always be growing and getting better, this is one of the great things about our organization.

I am proud to share the COMSEP mission, vision and strategic pillars for the COMSEP strategic plan:

**Vision:** Better health for all patients through pediatric education

**Mission:** To advance medical student education in pediatrics through a vibrant community of educators

**Strategic pillars:**

- Member Engagement and Professional Development
- Educational Excellence
- Innovation and Scholarship
- Collaboration and Leadership
- Organizational Vibrancy

But this is just a beginning and YOU will get a chance to enhance the strategic plan at the COMSEP annual meeting in St. Louis. I am looking forward to gathering your great ideas and getting you involved in making COMSEP your professional home.

**Quote for the month:**

*"And now we welcome the new year. Full of things that have never been."*

-Rainer Maria Rilke.

Wow! So full of possibilities and hope. This quote makes me pause and wonder. What does it say to you?

Looking forward to seeing you all in the upcoming months and best wishes for the New Year.



Moonsset over Seattle

-Steve Cobert, MD

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## [Meeting Updates](#)

Registration is now open for the St. Louis meeting. Thank you to all the members who submitted workshops and abstracts for consideration. In addition, we are indebted to the workshop and abstract reviewers who helped create a wonderful program for the meeting. Please visit the [meeting home page](#) to get a look at the preliminary program, and register. I just want to highlight some activities designed to stimulate your **SPIRIT OF EXPLORATION**:

**Collaboration & Creativity Forum:** A chance for you to talk to task force and program leaders to find out what is going on at COMSEP and get involved. Check out new innovations, the grants program, ask questions and volunteer for a project!

**Poster viewing:** Open all day during on April 7<sup>th</sup> for you to get ideas and discuss new findings with your colleagues

**Miller Sarkin Fun Run/Walk and Dance!:** This year we have added an option to learn to dance (thank you Soo Kim and Steve Tinguely for this great idea). We will provide more information about this as the meeting gets closer. What a

wonderful tribute to Steve Miller and Richard Sarkin.

Project group meetings: We have set aside time for project groups to meet at COMSEP. These are open to all COMSEP members and you are welcome to participate and contribute to the work.

## Leadership Opportunities

COMSEP is a dynamic group made stronger by all the wonderful people who volunteer to be national leaders. The time commitment is reasonable and the payoffs are huge! Don't be shy...apply:

### COMSEP Executive Committee Members, Treasurer & Nominating Committee:

You all recently saw [an announcement](#) via the listserv about these opportunities. Please click on "COMSEP Nominations 2016". All of these positions are critical for COMSEP to continue to grow and advance pediatric medical education. I hope you all consider applying.

### ACE (Alliance for Clinical Education) representative position:

ACE (Alliance for Clinical Education) is a multi-specialty group created to enhance clinical instruction of medical students. ACE's mission is to foster collaboration across specialties in order to promote excellence in clinical education of medical students. **Bruce Morgenstern has served as the COMSEP representative to the ACE Executive Committee and is now the President Elect (congratulations Bruce!)**. With Bruce's new role, there is now an open position for a COMSEP representative to ACE. Please contact [info@comsep.org](mailto:info@comsep.org) if you are interested. It is a great opportunity to work to enhance clinical education for all medical students!

### COMSEP Grant committee:

The COMSEP grant program is a wonderful member benefit designed to foster scholarship among our members. We had a great group of applications this year and the grant committee is responsible for reviewing and providing feedback to members who apply. There is an open position on the committee. Please see the formal [announcement](#) for details. Please click on "COMSEP Grants Committee Nominations 2016".

### COMSEP survey committee:

The COMSEP survey committee is charged with overseeing and administering the COMSEP annual survey that has fostered multiple publications. There is an open position on the committee. Please complete the short interest form and send this in to [info@comsep.org](mailto:info@comsep.org) to be considered.

**Next Edition (March 2016)**

Taskforce updates and meeting previews

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



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