



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

Greetings COMSEP!

I hope that you all have settled into the rhythm of schools being in session and activities populating your weekends and evenings. I often feel that I can focus on work more as the days grow shorter and the lure of hiking and long summer days is not quite as strong. The COMSEP Executive Committee met in late September and reviewed many new and exciting ideas to support COMSEP's growth in the upcoming years. It seems that having a new strategic plan is also helping to focus our activities. I will report more in December about new initiatives as a preview for the upcoming year.

In this month's Educator we will highlight the Learning Technology Task Force initiatives and introduce a new feature to help you optimize your teaching. I love it that COMSEP members are always trying new ways to reach out and help each other and improve education.

Finally, I can't ignore the fact that we are into the post-season for baseball...some of our members are SO very excited. I am always impressed by the skill, hard work and dedication it takes to play baseball (just think how hard it is to hit a small object traveling at 90 mph with a bat! And ask me about how to be a good "mom fan").

Baseball is a lot like life. It's a day-to-day existence, full of ups and downs. You make the most of your opportunities in baseball as you do in life.---Ernie Harwell



Park Butte-Courtesy of Stephen Cobert, MD

All the Best,

Sherilyn Smith, MD
COMSEP President, 2015-2017

Task Force Updates – Learning Technology

The Learning Technology Task Force (LTF) works to bring technology based tools to COMSEP members to optimize faculty teaching and student learning. They have been busy throughout the summer.

Planning sessions for 2017 COMSEP Annual Meeting and are considering the following ideas: showcasing how to use technology for active teaching, creative teaching methodologies, creating educational apps on the cheap, and copyright considerations with your teaching materials.

Website improvements: Soumya Adhikari and Philip Malouf are members of a committee (co-led by Dr. Adhikari and Dr. Wilbur Pan) that includes representatives from each Task Force to assess COMSEP's needs for the website and ongoing updates. This will likely include additional resources to facilitate collaboration between members. Members of the LTF have beta-tested several different options.

Mobile App for the 2017 COMSEP Annual Meeting: members are working with Christy Levine with Degnon Associates to identify the functions that would be most helpful and hope to use this at our next meeting.

LTF Tech Corner (NEW FEATURE)

The LTF would like to introduce you to the first entry in our Tech Corner series, offering tech tools and tips for teaching. This entry is written by Dr. Lucy Lee and highlights a great new way to get learners involved during or well after teaching sessions.

I was recently introduced to a new teaching tool, called [TodaysMeet](#). This is a simple backchannel communication tool that can be used to continue discussions within a class. The intent is to provide a forum where participants can ask and receive answers, suggest ideas, or give feedback, all in real time. Participants only need to provide a

nickname to contribute, which hopefully engages quieter or introverted students to chime in where they otherwise may not have in a classroom.

It was very easy to start a chat room, and did not require creating a login. However, there are several more features available if you do create a login and subscribe to the full service (including muting disruptive participants, the ability to pause a discussion, and saving transcripts for the classroom).

To try it out, visit: <https://todaysmeet.com>, enter a room name, and select how long you would like the room open for (choices range from 1 hour to 1 month). You'll be given a unique link to share with your classroom, and then it's ready to go. I shared my room with the LTF group to try out for a week. Below is a screen shot of what the room chat interface looks like. I'd love to hear if COMSEP members find this to be helpful, so please share your feedback and suggestions!

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Annual Meeting Update

We are excited to announce that abstracts are being accepted for both Workshops and Poster/Platform Presentations. Information about each is below, with links to additional information. The deadline to apply is **October 24, 2016**.

Workshop Submissions

[COMSEP is soliciting Pre-conference and Conference Workshop submissions for its 2017 Annual Meeting.](#)

Submissions being accepted for:

Pre-conference:

Four 4-hour pre-conference workshop sessions

Conference:

Twenty-seven 120-minute workshop sessions during three concurrent sessions

COMSEP encourages submissions by clerkship administrators and aims to provide one workshop per time slot that is designed to meet the professional development needs of clerkship administrators. Other workshop slots are available for workshops developed by COMSEP members or task forces that best meet the need of faculty participants.

COMSEP aims to provide a variety of workshop topics that meet the professional development needs of our members, and thus tries to distribute workshop topics across three broad categories: meeting theme, foundational topics and “hot” topics

Workshop review and selection will be conducted through a blinded peer review process. Preference will be given to workshops whose topic and instructional methods best meet the faculty development needs of current COMSEP members. Multi institutional workshops and those including junior COMSEP members are highly encouraged.

Please feel free to contact one of the Faculty Development Task Force leaders ([Sharon Sholiton](#), [Corki Lehmann](#), [Wilbur Pan](#) or [Amy Creel](#)) if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your willingness to share your expertise and we look forward to your many excellent workshop proposals for a great meeting in 2017!

Platform and Poster Research and Scholarship Presentations

[COMSEP is soliciting Platform and Poster Research and Scholarship Presentations for its 2017 Annual Meeting](#)

These presentations provide COMSEP members the opportunity to share original research, teaching tools, and innovative programs and offer opportunities for feedback, collaboration and further scholarly work. We will consider research and innovations submissions with relevance to medical students in pediatrics. New this year- the abstract review criteria will differ between research and innovation abstracts.

Research Abstracts

Research questions seek to advance the knowledge, skills and attitudes of trainees by understanding and evaluating the educational system.

Innovation Abstracts

Innovations such as new teaching methods, new curricula, new strategies or assessment tools may be submitted as long as the approach is scholarly.

All submissions will be evaluated by a team of reviewers using a standard scoring rubric for research and innovation abstracts. Feedback will be provided to the primary author of all submissions, regardless of whether the abstract is accepted.

This is a great opportunity to share your educational research and innovative work with your colleagues and present at a national meeting. Please contact [Gary Beck Dallaghan](#) or [Jocelyn Schiller](#) if you have additional questions.

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