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## Message from the President

Hello COMSEP!

I hope that you are settling into 2017 and exploring new opportunities. As a new year starts, we always hear about the pros and cons of new year's resolutions. One of the reasons I actually like this time of year is that there is a built in opportunity to try new things and set goals. I worry less about actually achieving a lofty goal, but rather embrace the act of trying!

COMSEP continues to try new things as well and that is one of the things that I absolutely love about the organization. This year, as part of the preconference workshop offerings we will be expanding opportunities to enhance your leadership skills. We really *will* have something for everyone. For those people who are new to COMSEP and being a clerkship director, the new clerkship directors' workshop has been redesigned to allow more time to explore the many facets of the job. For those of you who are seeking to grow your own leadership skills, there will be a new workshop designed to give you the tools to do so. I am sure that both will be fabulous!

To inspire and challenge you, here are a couple of quotes for the month:

*Things never go the way you expect them to. That's both the joy and frustration in life. I'm finding as I get older that I don't mind, though. It's the surprises that tickle me the most, the things you don't see coming.*      Michael Stuhlberg

*Use those talents you have. You will make it. You will give joy to the world. Take this tip from nature: The woods would be a very silent place if no birds sang except those who sang best.*      Bernard Meltzer



Wishing you all the best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sherilyn Smith".

Sherilyn Smith, MD  
COMSEP President, 2015-2017

## Program Updates and Highlights

### **Journal Club**

Haven't you enjoyed receiving those succinct summaries of the medical education literature? You can contribute and learn at the same time. The [COMSEP Journal Club](#) is a great way to dip a toe into the waters of medical education scholarship! Each month 3-4 reviewers pick an article, boil it down to its 300-word-or-less essence, and present it to COMSEP with a few lines about its potential impact for our students. The articles come from premier medical education journals like *Academic Medicine*, *Teaching and Learning in Medicine*, and *Medical Education*, and the co-editors are always ready to lend a hand in picking an appropriate article. The articles are submitted at the beginning of each month and generally published in the middle of the month. They are now searchable by "tag" and maintained on the COMSEP website. In 2016 more than 30 COMSEP members signed up for a review, and there is space for more in 2017.

### **Mentoring Program**

Being a COMSEP member is a great way to network and talk to people who have “walked in your shoes”. We have harnessed the wealth of knowledge and experience in our members through the **COMSEP Mentoring Program**. The program pairs up COMSEP members who share interests in a formal mentoring relationship. This is an opportunity to achieve those career goals with the guidance of someone who knows the ropes and can provide sage advice. Look for the formal announcement and application in a few weeks. The new cohort will be selected by the 2017 COMSEP meeting and then ready to get to work. This is a wonderful opportunity for both mentors AND mentees!

### **Additional Leadership Opportunities**

#### **COMSEP Grant Committee**

The COMSEP grant program is a wonderful member benefit designed to foster scholarship among our members. We had a fantastic 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 complete the short interest form to be considered.](#)

#### **COMSEP Annual 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 to be considered.](#)

## Annual Meeting Updates

[Registration for the Annual Meeting is now open.](#) The meeting will be held March 29 – April 1, 2017 at the Hilton Portland and Executive Tower in Portland, OR. A block of rooms has been reserved at the price of \$199.00/night plus tax. [Click here to access the Hilton online reservation system.](#) . You can also call 1-800-HILTONS and use the code "CMS" to receive the discounted rate. This rate is good until March 1, 2017 or until the block is filled

#### **This year we are pleased to offer:**

- An expanded New Clerkship Directors preconference workshop
- An expanded preconference workshop on Leadership
- 20 Preconference and Conference Workshop from which to choose
- Dinner and Dancing at the Collaborative Life Sciences Building on the OHSU Campus
- Networking and collaboration time with friends and colleagues.

Maybe most exciting, though...COMSEP members will have the **opportunity to bring and donate their favorite book to the Children’s Community Clinic’s** Reach Out and Read Program (<http://www.reachoutandread.org>). Inspired by Dr. First’s talk last year about giving back to your community, COMSEP is partnering with the **Children’s Community Clinic** in Portland, OR, which began in

2005 and is part of the Coalition of Community Clinics. The clinic's mission is to provide high quality and compassionate healthcare to children, from birth to 21 years, of families who are underserved (uninsured and underinsured), regardless of ethnicity, geographic residency or ability to pay. We hope all attendees will participate.

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