Case Western Reserve University  
T501 School of Medicine  
October 8, 2009 CME Meeting

PRESENT: Dr. Keith Armitage, Chair; Drs. Mireille Boutry, Wanda Cruz-Knight, Paul Ernsberger, Barbara Freeman, Martin Snider, Amy Wilson-Delfosse, Daniel Wolpaw; Ms. Anna Brady (Year V College representative), Mr. Christopher King (Year IV University student representative)  
Drs. Terry Wolpaw, Alan Hull, C. Kent Smith  
Drs. Klara Papp; Mrs. Virginia Saha; Mr. Myles Nickolich (Year I University student representative); Ms. Lois Kaye (secretary)  

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Drs. Jalal Abu-Shaweesh, Abdulla Gori, J. Harry “Bud” Isaacson, George Kikano, Mimi Singh, James B. Young

GUEST: Dr. Michael Landers

Comments from the Chair

Dr. Keith Armitage, CME chair, opened the meeting by reviewing the three remaining sets of minutes—June 25, September 10, and September 25—which were approved as distributed. He introduced Dr. Klara Papp, who presented an update on the new design for the Survey of Recent Graduates and their “employers,” the Residency Program Directors. After Dr. Armitage’s departure later on during the meeting, Dr. Dan Wolpaw acted as chair.

Survey of Recent Graduates and Residency Program Directors

Dr. Klara Papp, Director for the Center for the Advancement of Medical Learning (CAML), provided an update on follow-up to the CME request to design a questionnaire for recent CWRU School of Medicine graduates and their residency program directors to be administered one year following graduation to determine curricular strengths and areas needing changes. Target date to administer this survey is March 2010 (Class of 2009). Emphasis was on making the survey user-friendly, direct, and brief.

In August 2009, a brief survey soliciting question suggestions for 1) our recent graduates, and 2) their residency program directors was e-mailed to three principal faculty groups: the Joint Clinical Oversight Group (JCOG), Block Leaders, and the Committee on Medical Education (CME). The survey was sent to 167 individuals. In addition, suggestions and comments were solicited during discussions at meetings of the CME, JCOG, and the Program Evaluation Committee. Dr. Terry Wolpaw contacted members of the 13-School Consortium requesting samples of their surveys; and three schools—Washington University, Duke University, and Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine—obliged. A MEDLINE search of the literature using the keywords “surveys of recent graduates” yielded 440 articles, of which eight were chosen as most relevant (see References, page 4 of attached handout). To date, 36 responses, not
including face-to-face feedback and comments, were received. Using a qualitative approach, questions/comments were examined for themes: Questions for Recent Graduates yielded themes that could be grouped into four categories: General, Physical Diagnosis, Competency, and Assessment. Themes for Residency Program Directors were evidenced by Questions in the General and Competency categories, with inclusion of statements from the literature for consideration. A working draft of the survey is found at the end of the attached handout. The draft Survey to Recent Graduates consists of three entries:

- A question asking how well CWRU prepared him/her to fulfill professional responsibilities in each of the nine competencies,
- A question asking what areas of the curriculum need to be improved to better prepare graduates in each of the nine competencies, and
- A textbox asking for a recommendation for a single improvement in the curriculum.

The draft Survey to Residency Program Directors also has three entries:

- A question asking how well prepared our graduate was,
- A yes-no question asking if there were deficiencies in resident performance that should have been identified in medical school and if so, for identification where in the nine competencies these deficiencies occurred, and
- The opportunity to comment on how our curriculum can better prepare students for residency training.

Acknowledgement to the many members of the Program Evaluation Committee for their contributions is also included in the handout. Today’s “Survey of Recent Graduates and Residency Program Directors Report” can be found in its entirety attached at the end of these minutes.

Dr. Papp went on to mention some additional considerations. She acknowledged the existence of a slight disconnect between surveying graduates for how well they were prepared for internship (the immediate) as opposed to the long-term WR2 goal of preparing them for the practice of medicine and lifelong learning. The following features are a response to CME requests. The survey is brief to encourage completion by both residency program directors and CWRU graduates. Graduates will be asked for their demographic information, such as whether they pursued the College track or the University track. There will be textboxes with each question to encourage participants to offer comments. Answers will consist of a numerical scale.

Dr. Dan Wolpaw inquired when other schools administer this survey. Dr. Papp replied that we plan to administer our survey in March 2010, when our graduates will be three-quarters of the way through their internship year.

Dr. Armitage reiterated his preference for Survey Monkey and follow-up with logs of “nag” e-mails to participants who have not yet completed the questionnaire. He suggested sending busy interns a series of e-mails about every 10 days so that they remember to complete the survey when they get some free time. In answer to a discussant’s question, Dr. Papp explained that the system can be set up so that participants who have already returned the completed survey will no longer be e-mailed.

Year IV student representative, Mr. Chris King, inquired whether students not part of the Western Reserve2 curriculum will receive the survey. Dr. Papp replied in the affirmative. For example, the Class of 2009 will receive the survey.
Dr. Ernsberger suggested providing incentives to complete the survey. A substantial prize can be quite a motivator. Dr. Papp mentioned that she welcomes comments and suggestions. Dr. Hull felt that the terminology used in the survey reflects the University track. What about the 29 graduates from the College? Dr. Papp replied that a “branching” survey may be designed to include additional questions specific to each program. Mr. King inquired whether there are plans to send him and his classmates (Class of 2010) the survey before they graduate and follow up. Dr. Papp assured Mr. King that the Class of 2010, the first entering class of Western Reserve2, will receive several surveys. Dr. Armitage reiterated that perception about your undergraduate medical education changes considerably during the first nine months of internship.

The question was raised about CWRU graduates retaining their University e-mail address. Here is the official policy according to ITS, courtesy of David Pilasky, Director of Administrative Computing and Director of IT Operations at the School of Medicine:

1. Students who graduate from Case have been keeping and will continue to keep their Case Network IDs and e-mail addresses.
2. There is no difference between the Case Gmail address and the old Case address. Both are @case.edu.

Dr. Armitage suggesting asking our students for their G-mail address and one other e-mail address that they check regularly. He summarized his concept for the recent graduate/residency program director questionnaire:

1. An electronic survey from the CME focused on the curriculum
2. Follow-up with a written letter from the Society Deans to determine the effectiveness of the Dean's Letter

One discussant suggested branching the nine competencies listed to accommodate the University and College tracks separately in the residency program directors survey, but Dr. Armitage favored blending competencies 1 through 9 instead. Dr. Hull explained that he and Dr. Terry Wolpaw tried to blend competencies. Dr. Papp added that special competencies can be added after blending. No numerical scale is needed here—just yes and no answers.

When there is more than one CWRU graduate in the same residency program, Dr. Armitage explained that the program director receives one survey for each graduate.

Year I University track student representative and Student CME chair, Mr. Myles Nickolich, asked about having two separate surveys and merging the data. Dr. Papp replied that while that can be done, it would complicate the analysis. It is better to have one survey.

Dr. Armitage mentioned that as a program director, he receives both a written and an online survey, each identifying the student.

Mrs. Saha inquired as to how long the student remains identified with the survey. Dr. Papp replied that as soon as the completed survey is returned, the student’s identity is removed.
Dr. Armitage thanked Dr. Papp and Ms. Siu Yan Scott, Manager and Program Evaluation Coordinator for CAML, for the enormous amount of work that went into gathering and condensing so much information into this “elegant,” succinct report.

Student CME Report

Ms. Anna Brady, Year V College track student representative, and Mr. Chris King, Year IV University track student representative, mentioned that their classmates are busy applying for residency.

Mr. Myles Nickolich, Year I University track student representative, mentioned that he has gathered a list of recommendations from his classmates. Focus on Block 1 small group issues included more opportunities for students to meet other new students.

Dr. Dan Wolpaw conducted the rest of today’s CME meeting after Dr. Armitage’s departure.

Foundations of Medicine and Health Update

Dr. Amy Wilson-Delfosse, Basic Science Curriculum Council Chair, mentioned that first year students are now engaged in the revamped Block 2 Clinical Immersion, which overall is going well. Second year students in Block 5 are approaching their Clinical Immersion. Drs. Barbara Freeman, Sue Wish Baratz, and Shana Miskovsky are busy planning Block 5 Musculoskeletal Week, which follows the Clinical Immersion week.

Clinical Curriculum Update

Dr. Dan Wolpaw, Clinical Curriculum Council Chair, and Joint Clinical Oversight Group (JCOG) Co-Chair, announced that there will be a class meeting for both the University and College tracks Wednesday, October 14 to learn how to create a third year schedule. University track students schedule the research block/core clerkships/Board study. College track students schedule core clerkships only. Core clerkships start next March for the University track and next July for the College track.

No Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine Curriculum Steering Council Report

Elective Program

Dr. Kent Smith mentioned that the University is encouraging student participation in international health rotations and is trying to establish a process to make this easier. Under new University protocols, Dr. Ron Blanton of Global Health and the student’s Society Dean must sign off on each international rotation. There are many international rotation possibilities. College track students recently put together a remarkable rotation working in a clinic in Peru and invited University track students along.

Dr. Dan Wolpaw added that the AAMC is trying to create a standardized process to support the efforts of students from outside the United States to participate in rotations at U.S. Medical Schools. The NBME has started a Foundations of Medicine project aimed at developing an examination similar to the USMLE Step 2 CK (Clinical
Knowledge) prior to a rotation in another country so that host schools know their degree of preparedness. This examination is mainly for students in Europe and the United States and is often given in English. It will be translated into Italian and Portuguese.

Mr. Myles Nickolich mentioned that there is much interest among first year students in international rotations but not much information. A presentation would be welcome.

Dr. Mireille Boutry inquired whether students coming to CWRU have to know English.

Dr. Dan Wolpaw replied that at least the Foundations of Medicine Examination is taken in English. He noted that patients in other countries often do not speak English, even if the doctors do.

**Library Update**

**Mrs. Virginia Saha**, Director of the Cleveland Health Sciences Library, mentioned certain resources that are up for renewal. *Natural Standard*, a Complementary/Alternative Medicine database introduced here by former Vice Dean Robert Daroff, is up for renewal in January. Mrs. Saha does not yet have our usage statistics. In the past, students have shown much interest in this area of medicine. Year I student, Mr. Myles Nickolich, admitted that he did not know about this resource. Both Mrs. Saha and Dr. Dan Wolpaw agreed that as an evidence-based CAM resource, this one is “as good as you can get.” Dr. Wolpaw asked Mrs. Saha if there are any reasonable alternatives to *Natural Standard*. She did not know of any.

Mrs. Saha mentioned a second resource up for renewal that we are using now: *Faculty of 1000 Medicine and Faculty of 1000 Biology*. Usage has been moderate, but the library will probably renew for another year.

**No Office of Curricular Affairs Update**

**Impromptu Discussion of USMLE Step 2 CS**

**Dr. Mireille Boutry** inquired about student performance on the USMLE Step 2 CS (Clinical Skills) last year. Dr. Dan Wolpaw remarked that he is not entirely familiar with the current results, but he is aware of very few failures here over the last few years. Year IV student, Mr. Chris King, mentioned that CWRU students take our internal OSCE prior to the licensure exam. In his opinion, our OSCE is more difficult than the licensure exam and serves as good preparation. The USMLE Step 2 exam costs $1,000 plus transportation and lodging expenses.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Kaye
Secretary to the CME