

MINUTES OF THE CURRICULUM PLANNING COMMITTEE

August 5, 2009

PRESENT: Nirjhor Bhowmik, Craig Cheifetz, Cindi Cornelissen, Linda Costanzo, Susan DiGiovanni, Alan Dow, Margaret Grimes, Phil Hylemon, Richard Krieg, Maryann Martinovic, Charles Nottingham, Evan Reiter, Jeanne Schlesinger and Ike Wood.

ABSENT: John Bigbee, Georgia Blackwood, Kate Bowers, Mary Ellen Cleary, Bob Diegelmann, Jeff Dupree, Adriana Faulkner, Doug Franzen, Frank Fulco, Michael Goldsmith, Amanda Layne, Sahar Larfi-Emran, Virginia Pallante, David Reines, Vibin Roy, Fereshteh Sani, Russ Seneca and Raphael Sun.

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m. by Ike Wood, Committee Chair. As there were new members on the committee, introductions were made. Dr. Cornellison announced that Dr. Hylemon would be taking her place on the committee. Dr. Wood commended Dr. Cornellison for his commitment and work.

Minutes of the July 15, 2009 meeting were approved.

The group broke into two subgroups. One subgroup (Drs. Dow, Grimes, Reiter, Mr. Bhowmik and MS. Martinovic and Schlesinger) worked on writing the objectives for “Applications of Scientific Knowledge & Method). The other subgroup (Drs. Cornelissen, Costanzo, DiGiovanni, Hylemon, Krieg and Mr. Nottingham) writing the objectives for “Self-Directed Learning & Self-Assessment.” Dr. Wood had reviewed the current SOM objectives and noted where they were not covered in the new document. He worked on adding these objectives.

The groups reported back and develop the following document:

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE OBJECTIVES

Professionalism: The ability to understand and demonstrate the nature of professional and ethical behavior in the act of medical care. This includes respect, responsibility, accountability, excellence, honor, integrity, altruism, leadership, cultural competency, compassion, and confidentiality.

Students who are graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine will:

- Provide compassionate care to patients with respect for their privacy and dignity
- Display honesty, integrity, and responsibility in all educational settings and in interactions with patients, their families, and colleagues
- Demonstrate altruism by consistently advocating for the patient’s best interest
- Summarize and put into practice the principles of ethical decision-making

- Demonstrate accountability to the patient, society, and the profession through a commitment to excellence and on-going professional development
- Appraise threats to the medical profession posed by the conflicts of interest inherent in the various financial and organizational arrangements within the practice of medicine
- Participate as an active member of the learning community and facilitate the learning of peers and other health care professionals
- Demonstrate knowledge of the psychological and physical risks and stressors of the practice of medicine
- Identify possible impairments in function and practice techniques for harm reduction

Patient Engagement & Communication (Interpersonal & Communication Skills): The ability to engage and communicate with patients, their families, and professional associates, using interpersonal skills to build relationships for information gathering, guidance, education, support and collaboration.

Students who are graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine will:

- Create and sustain therapeutic and ethically sound relationships with patients and their families
- Employ effective oral and written communication skills to elicit and convey information while building rapport with patients, their families, and professional associates
- Build collaborative relationships across both educational and clinical environments with patients, their families, and professional associates
- Demonstrate techniques of patient education and counseling in basic lifestyle changes and disease prevention

Application of Scientific Knowledge & Method (Medical Knowledge): The ability to discuss the biomedical, epidemiological, and social-behavioral aspects of clinical science and apply this knowledge to patient care.

Students who are graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine will:

- Use the scientific method to analyze basic, translational, and clinical research
- Describe, apply, and integrate the normal and pathologic structure and function of each organ system of the body
- Describe, apply, and integrate the ways in which organ systems are affected by the various causative mechanisms of disease
- Recognize the clinical, laboratory, radiographic, and pathologic manifestations of disease

- Describe, apply, and integrate the scientific basis of disease treatments, including intended and unintended effects
- Apply evidence-based medicine to determine the causation of disease and the efficacy of traditional and non-traditional therapies
- Appraise the impact of social-behavioral factors on health maintenance, causation of disease, and therapeutic outcomes

Patient Care: The ability to provide patient care that is appropriate and effective for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of health.

Students who are graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine will:

- Be able to obtain a complete history and perform a comprehensive physical/mental status examination
- Utilize a focused history and physical/mental status examination to obtain and complete clinical information in an efficient manner
- Recognize patients with immediate life threatening or serious conditions that require critical care and outline an initial course of management
- Discuss with and provide to patients and their families information and counseling aimed at disease management, prevention, and wellness
- Identify the epidemiology of common conditions within a defined population and apply systematic approaches to help reduce the incidence and prevalence of these conditions
- Describe the indications, risks, limitations, complications, and interpretation of commonly used diagnostic tests
- Perform routine procedures competently and identify the indications, risks, limitations, justifications, complications, and interpretations of these procedures
- Construct appropriate assessments, differential diagnoses, and treatment plans for patients across the spectrum of medical presentations
- Gather, interpret, and apply ongoing relevant clinical information in the care of patients
- Select appropriate tests for detecting patients at risk for specific diseases and determine strategies for responding appropriately
- Utilize information technology to gather patient data, support patient care decisions, and educate patients and their families

Putting Care in Practical Context (Systems-based Practice): The ability to provide clinical care within the practical context of a patient's age, gender, personal values, family, health literacy, culture, religion, and social and economic circumstances. This goal includes

consideration of relevant ethical, moral, and legal perspectives, patient advocacy, public health concerns, and resources and limitations of the healthcare system.

Students who are graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine will:

- Obtain patient histories including information about patients' culture and other factors that may influence the appropriate course of care
- Perform culturally-sensitive physical exams
- Identify cultural barriers that are perceived by patients as impacting health and health care
- Develop plans of care that take into account pertinent cultural attributes of patients and address barriers perceived by patients
- Compare and contrast various approaches to the organization, financing, and delivery of health care
- Demonstrate understanding of the legal framework within which physicians function
- Describe the various roles and responsibilities of members of the health care team
- Interact effectively with all members of the health care team to provide the best possible care for patients
- Relate the effect of public policy actions to individual health and health care systems as a whole
- Define the methods used by individuals and systems to improve quality of care
- Practice a commitment to provide care to patients who are unable to pay and to advocate for access to health care for members of underserved populations
- Recognize and appropriately address gender and cultural biases in themselves and others and in the process of health care delivery

Self-directed Learning & Self-Assessment (Practice-based Learning & Improvement): The ability to assess and understand ones learning style, to self-identify areas of strength and weakness, to independently identify and evaluate resources to engage in lifelong learning, and to critically appraise the evolving body of medical knowledge.

Students who are graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine will:

- Recognize the limitations of one's own knowledge and skills and seek to engage in lifelong learning to address those limitations
- Recognize the limitations of the role of a physician

- Recognize the limitations of the evolving body of medical knowledge
- Apply a scholarly attitude toward the advancement of medical knowledge
- Retrieve, critically review, and utilize biomedical information

The committee discussed whether or not there was a need to include the three appendices found in the old SOM objectives. The consensus was that these were not overarching objectives and should not be included.

Dr. Wood noted that the committee will meet again on August 17, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. at which point we would revisit the development of the curriculum. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ike Wood, M.D., Committee Chair