Dr. Prayson to Help Students Transition into Residencies

Richard Prayson, M.D., has agreed to take on a leadership role in the Student Affairs projects supporting the transition of our students into residencies after medical school. He is helping with group sessions, reviewing the Careers in Medicine curriculum, meeting with students about their current specialty choices, and helping plan a career elective for fourth-year students. Discussions on writing personal essays and organizing resumes, mock interview practice, and suggestions for letters of reference are all part of his upcoming contributions.

Dr. Prayson will collaborate with Kathy Franco, M.D., on issues important to the Physician Advisor Committee and the Admissions Committee. Dr. Prayson’s earlier service on the Admissions Committee made him a valuable screener and interviewer for the class chosen to begin in 2008. Over the past few years, he has served as an outstanding teacher and physician advisor. Now he will support Dr. Franco in additional formative roles with the students.

Body Donation Program Memorial Dedication Held

The Body Donation Program at Cleveland Clinic held its first Memorial Dedication Program on Thursday, October 11, 2007. The purpose of this program was to honor the individuals who had donated their remains to Cleveland Clinic and to thank their families and friends for supporting their loved ones’ wishes.

The Body Donation Program at Cleveland Clinic is an important community service that allows an individual to make a thoughtful and meaningful contribution to medical science. Although decades old, this program needed to grow significantly due to the beginning of the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine (CCLCM) in 2004 and its use of cadavers in its educational programs. This growth has occurred, and this Memorial Dedication Program, as well as the opportunity for the remains of donated individuals to be buried at Cleveland Clinic’s mausoleum crypt at Lake View Cemetery in Cleveland, is yet another example of how we can publicly thank the Cleveland community for their support of this valuable program. Attending the program were over 65 individuals who heard from Andrew Fishleder, M.D., Chairman of the Education Institute and Executive Dean of CCLCM; Richard Drake, Ph.D., Director of Anatomy at CCLCM; Rev. Dennis Kenny and Rev. Julia Moses from (Continued on page 2)
the Department of Pastoral Care at Cleveland Clinic; Christine Baran, representing the Class of 2009; Richard Haigler, representing the Class of 2010; and Chi Chiung Grace Chen, M.D., representing Residents and Fellows active in the educational program at CCLCM.

Research Preceptors Needed for Summer Research Blocks and Thesis Year

During the 5-year program at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine, students learn essential skills for biomedical research including hypothesis generation, grant writing, and presentation skills. Students invest 10 weeks of their first summer in a basic science or translational research lab. During their second summer, they join an active clinical research team for a 9-week research experience. Students will also complete a masters-level thesis over 12-15 months. During the busiest summer months, 100 or more CCLCM students may be actively involved in some research experience. To make this all possible, many preceptors are needed.

To identify a research preceptor, CCLCM students search lists of faculty and sample projects in the Basic Science, Translational, and Clinical Research Compendia on the CCLCM portal. Over 300 faculty are currently on this list—164 basic science and 158 clinical researchers. However, since many preceptors are not able to take a student every year, we are always looking for additional Research Preceptors with ongoing clinical, basic science, or translational research projects.

To be added to the Research Compendia, please submit an NIH biosketch including funding and at least one sample project description (noting the student’s role) to Michelle Bey at beym2@ccf.org.

Our Students

Welcome to Cleveland GOODTIME Cruise

The 14th Annual “Welcome to Cleveland” GOODTIME Cruise was eerie . . . actually we were ON Lake Erie! Despite some earlier all-day rains, the sky cleared long enough for us to enjoy a misty view of the hazy lights of downtown Cleveland. The sailing was smooth, the music loud, the dance floor full and the food plentiful. A “Goodtime” was had by all—especially by our medical students in attendance, several of whom walked off the ship with fabulous raffle prizes.

Mark your calendars for next year’s 15th Annual “Welcome to Cleveland” GOODTIME Cruise on Sunday, August 17, 2008 (2nd to the last Sunday in August).
Student representation on committees that decide upon the curriculum is vital. Faculty members need the student perspective when creating and implementing policy. We are happy to present the students who will be serving on CCLCM committees.

**Clinical Education Committee**
- James Beckmann
  Class of 2009
- Catherine Golski
  Class of 2009

**Admissions Committee**
- Christine Baran
  Class of 2009
- Richard Haigler
  Class of 2010
- Nicholas Krebs
  Class of 2011
- Jazmine Sutton
  Class of 2011
- Stephanie Weiss
  Class of 2011

**Basic Science Education Committee**
- Stephen Hart
  Class of 2011
- Jocelyn Cottrell
  Class of 2012

**Foundations of Clinical Medicine**
- Jason Lappé
  Class of 2009
- Andrew McCoy
  Class of 2010
- Mark Tenforde
  Class of 2010
- Justin Bohrer
  Class of 2009
- Samuel Edwards
  Class of 2009
Our Faculty
Resident Educator Series Launched

The Education Institute has initiated a resident educator series, known as the Resident Educator And Life-long Learner (REALL) program under the direction of Lily Pien, M.D. The purpose of this program is to provide training in the basic skills of supervising, teaching and assessing students and residents in the specific context and environment of their specialty.

The REALL committee members are Elias Traboulsi, M.D.; Christine Taylor, Ph.D.; Carol Farver, M.D.; Ronan Factora, M.D.; Johanna Goldfarb, M.D.; Craig Nielsen, M.D.; Mayur Pandya, M.D.; and Lily Pien, M.D. The committee has selected a centralized model for planning and training and a distributed model for the implementation of the seven initial educational modules.

A Train-the-Trainer workshop series will be used to prepare discipline-specific faculty trainers to conduct the workshops with their residents. More than 40 faculty trainers have been recruited from 20 residency programs for this inaugural year. The first Train-the-Trainer module, Learning Styles, was successfully held October 1, 2007. Future topics include Observational Skills, Giving Feedback, Communication Skills: The Angry Patient, and Critical Thinking. The ultimate goal of the REALL program is to enhance resident teaching skills and to encourage life-long learning with faculty trainers' guidance and implementation of the Train-the-Trainer modules.

Essentials Series Starts Its Third Year

The first week in October marks the return of post-season baseball, the first-year CCLCM students from a well-deserved break, fall leaves, cooler temperatures, and the kick off of the “Essentials in Teaching and Assessment Series.” This series of workshops is designed to provide a solid foundation in teaching and assessment skills and is offered to all Cleveland Clinic (CC) Faculty and Staff who provide instruction to CCLCM Medical Students and/or CC residents and fellows.

Faculty design their own program by choosing those sessions that pique their interest and meet their specific needs. All faculty members are encouraged to attend the series’ introductory half-day “Foundation in Education” mini-retreat, and then choose from the other regularly scheduled 90-minute sessions. Staff who complete the introductory “Foundations in Education” mini-retreat and any five of the remaining workshops with corresponding observation or materials review will earn the CC “Distinguished Educator Level I Certificate” (DE-L1).

In 2005-06, over 40 faculty attended sessions and 11 earned the certificate. The following year (2006-07) over 50 staff members attended sessions with 18 earning the certificate. The Program continues to grow with 68 faculty from 33 departments registering for the Essentials Series classes. Christine Taylor, Ph.D., directs the series and teaches many of the classes along with guest area experts. Maggie Muszka coordinates all the logistics and keeps records so important to documenting qualification for the DE-L1 Certificate. Last year Mark Mayer, M.D.; J. Harry Isaacson, M.D.; Neil Mehta, M.D.; M.S.; Margaret McKenzie, M.D.; Geraldine Hall, Ph.D.; Beth Bierer, Ph.D.; Elumalai Appachi, M.D.; and Elaine Dannefer, Ph.D. all contributed as guest teachers. We look forward to another great year.
Clinical Assessment System Presented at Graylyn Conference for Technology

In September 2007 two members of the CCLCM Technology team, Neil Mehta, M.D., F.A.C.P., and Kristen Billings presented a demonstration of the Clinical Assessment System, a Web-based application, at the Graylyn Conference for Technology Innovation in Medical Education 2007 at Winston Salem, North Carolina.

The Clinical Assessment System supports the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and CCLCM clinical education programs. The system was built by the College Technology Team from the ground up and rolled out in July, 2006. Since then, it has successfully provided a mechanism for students in clinical rotations to record all their significant patient encounters and procedures. In addition, it simplifies the process of providing formative feedback to the students on observed patient interactions and for summative feedback from preceptors with sufficient clinical experience with students.

The presentation was very well received, and the team received good feedback about using the patient log to identify the preceptors who should give feedback, making this a student-driven process and overall the efficiency gained by combining logs and assessments into one application. The portion of the presentation describing the process of user-centered development generated a lot of interest in this technology-savvy audience.

During some of the networking sessions, the team members were able to describe some of the other applications built by the team like the ePortfolio, the Research Compendium and the Student Portal. Attendees were in general quite impressed that the College has been able to build such rich and innovative Web-based applications in such a short span since its inception. Congratulations to the entire team!

Faculty Publications


Dannefer, EF. Competency-Based Assessment. Plenary Speaker: International Association of Medical Science Educators, Cleveland, OH. July 23, 2007.

Dannefer, EF. How to Create a Student Portfolio. Workshop: University of Utah Medical School Education Retreat, Salt Lake City, UT. September 28, 2007.

Dannefer, EF. Portfolios and Competency-Based Assessment. Education Grand Rounds: Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Nashville, TN. September 4, 2007.


New Curriculum Leaders

CCLCM welcomes our new Curriculum Leaders for the 2007-2008 academic year:

Donna Hansel, M.D.
Thread Leader of Pathology

Jennifer Kriegler, M.D.
Discipline Leader of Neurology

Michael Levine, M.D.
Co-Director of Advanced Research in Medicine 2: Friday Research Seminars

Franklin Michota, M.D.
Co-Director of Advance Core-Perioperative Medicine and Pain

Joseph Nally, M.D.
Co-Director of Year 2 Renal Course

Daniel Neides, M.D.
Director of Advanced Core

Vicki Reed, M.D.
Discipline Co-Leader of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Welcome, Lizzy—Caring Canine Team Member

My name’s Lizzy McBride, favorite pet of Jennifer McBride, Ph.D. I volunteer in the Cleveland Clinic Caring Canines program. Every week I spend time on the main campus visiting with family members and loved ones in the Surgical Center Waiting Area and atrium of the Heart Center. After making my rounds, I head to the main entrance and greet people as they come in and wag my tail as they go out. While I’m in this area, I also visit my friends working for Patient Access Services and the Cleveland Clinic police officers. Near the end of my visit I make my way up to Palliative Care. In the future I look forward to visiting kids in the Children’s Hospital...they give the best hugs. Although I’m fairly new to the Caring Canines program, I’ve really enjoyed my first two months as a volunteer. Not only do I get to go for a walk and car ride, I’m also showered with the occasional snuggle and lots of petting by those I visit. Understandably, before I could participate in the program, I had to complete a series of tests. Once I passed and received my registration letter from the Delta Society, I then had three supervised visits to the Cleveland Clinic before I could visit with my pet partner, Jennifer.

Now that my pet partner and I are visiting the hospital regularly, I hope that if you see us you’ll say “hi.” I’ll be the one sporting a blue Caring Canines vest and adorable brown eyes.

Curricular Update

A Closer Look at OSCE

The Observed Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE), first described in the UK by Harden et. al in 1975, was designed to assess the clinical skills and competence of final year medical students. Since then, increasing numbers of medical schools worldwide have adopted the method to assess medical student, resident and allied health student knowledge and skills.

A typical OSCE involves multiple assessment stations and the use of patients trained to provide consistent history and physical examination findings. Students are given a preset amount of time to perform a task at one station before rotating to another station. A faculty observer or trained patient uses a structured checklist to assess the students.

The advantages of OSCEs include more objective assessment because of the checklists, reduced risk of examiner bias because more examiners are used, increased range of skills tested, increased consistency of assessments, and a high level of validity. OSCEs are positively viewed by faculty and students and increase motivation for learning. This has established the OSCE as a preferred method for both formative and summative assessment.

However, the OSCE has limitations, including student stress, complex planning, higher costs, increased staffing, and ensuring confidentiality of the exam when student cohorts need to be assessed in separate groups.

At CCLCM, students experience an OSCE first during the later part of their first year as well as two more OSCEs during their second year. We use the OSCE to provide formative assessment and feedback to students and faculty educators. The USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills (CS) exam includes 10-12 patient encounters using an OSCE format. Before taking the CS exam, all CWRU medical students participate in a practice OSCE that is based on the CS exam.
**CCLCM Hosted Visit by Medical Education Leaders from Santiago, Chile**

Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine hosted a group of eight medical education leaders from the Clinica Alemana-Universidad del Desarrollo, a medical education program jointly sponsored by the Clinica Alemana academic medical center and the university, both located in Santiago, Chile. These institutions have developed and implemented an innovative 6-year program leading to an M.D. that began in 2002. The program will graduate about 100 students a year.

The visitors included the Dean, Vice Dean and Directors of Postgraduate Medical Education, Undergraduate Medical Education, Educational Development, Institute of Science, Financial Affairs, Human Genetics Program, and Clinical Clerkships. They had learned about CCLCM from a presentation about the program at the Harvard-Macy Institute’s Program for Educators in the Health Professions in 2005.

The visitors met with most of the CCLCM curriculum leaders and were interested in the organization of the CCLCM program, especially with the curriculum design, small group learning methods, assessment system, and faculty development program. They also had an opportunity to learn about the CCLCM curriculum from Rob Werka (Class of 2010) who volunteered to take the visitors on a tour of Cleveland Clinic and CCLCM.

**Leadership Transition in Advanced Core Rotations**

Amir Jaffer, M.D., left Cleveland Clinic to accept a position as Chairman of Hospital Medicine at the University of Miami. Dr. Jaffer has had an outstanding career at Cleveland Clinic in clinical care, education and research. He successfully led the development of the Advanced Core clinical rotations at CCLCM, part of an innovative approach to core clinical rotations for medical students. As part of this transition, Daniel Neides, M.D., has assumed oversight of the Advanced Core rotations and Franklin Michota, M.D., has taken over as co-director of the Advanced Core in Perioperative Medicine and Pain.

We wish Dr. Jaffer well in his new position. He will be missed!
Student Publications

The following list of publications represents what students and Cleveland Clinic faculty have published since the College's program inception in 2004.

Class of 2009


**Riley J, Spiotta A, Boulis N.** Experimental Therapeutic Approaches to Peripheral Nerve Tumors. Neurosurgical Focus. 2007 Jun 15; 22(6):E2


**Viny A, Hilden J, Stallion A, Bleyer WA** The Racial Disparity Gap in Pediatric Leukemia and Lymphoma Survival has been Eliminated in Children but not in Older Adolescents and Young Adults. Blood. 2006; 108 (11 pt 1):27a. Abstract #76.


**Class of 2010**

Class of 2011
