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THE COMMONWEALTH
MEDICAL COLLEGE



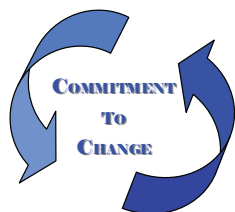
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eCHECK-UP

An electronic newsletter for clinical faculty of The Commonwealth Medical College

Winter 2013

TCMC Launches Commitment to Change Program



Commitment to Change is an educational concept that enhances the effectiveness of a CME activity. Studies show that physicians who make a “commitment to change” their practice behavior as the result of an educational activity are more likely to make changes than those who do not. The CME world today expects that programs will result in a learning to change continuum. The TCMC Office of CME has adopted the concept to better measure the

effectiveness of our educational programs. We will be asking physicians to indicate changes they expect to make on a commitment to change form after selected CME activities. Changes may be of an educational or clinical nature, depending on the content of the CME activity. We will follow up with responders to determine if changes were able to be incorporated or if any barriers exist to implementing positive change.

Class of 2014 Excels with Step I Exam Results

TCMC has learned the results of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) and we are pleased to report that the class of 2014 did extremely well. TCMC third-year students had a mean score of 231 on Step I of the USMLE, with 98% of the class passing. Both of these measures exceeded the performance of students nationally. This is the second consecutive year in which TCMC students have performed exceedingly well. “I am sure that everyone in the TCMC community is gratified by these results and shares my pride in our students. These scores reflect their hard work and the success of our curriculum,” said Steven J. Scheinman, MD, President and Dean.

Step I of the USMLE determines whether medical students can apply important concepts of the basic sciences to the practice of medicine and can demonstrate a foundation for the safe and competent practice of medicine. Nationally, through October 3, 2012, 96% of all US/Canadian first-time test takers passed the exam and the preliminary national mean is 227. “I applaud our faculty and staff whose dedication and efforts have continued to give our students a platform for sustained success. And of course I applaud our students for their excellent performance. Congratulations to everyone!” added Dean Scheinman.

ACE Physician Recognition Program Underway

The Academy of Clinical Educators, or ACE program, was launched at the Regional Clinical Faculty Meetings this past October. Physicians were inducted into the program based on appointment and active participation with the designation of “Member” and received a framed certificate at the meeting honoring their dedication to the students and TCMC.

An application review process for advancement in the program will take place annually beginning in the spring of 2013, followed by a recognition event. We are already receiving applications. The deadline for advancement applications is January 31st. For more information, or to obtain an ACE application, contact Chris Carroll, manager of regional affairs, at ccarroll@tcmedc.org or call 570.504.9678.

TCMC Datebook

Save the date for these upcoming events:

2013 Regional Faculty Development Meetings

North

All Meetings @ TCMC Auditorium
January 15 & May 2

South

All Meetings @ The Woodlands
January 22 & April 30

West

All Meetings @ DiSalvo's Restaurant
January 23 & May 1

MATCH Day

Friday, March 15 at Noon
TCMC Lobby & Auditorium

Obesity Symposium

The Obesity Epidemic - Prevention & Management

TCMC's First Keystone Program

Saturday, April 6

7:30 AM - 1:00 PM

TCMC Auditorium

Interdisciplinary CME Credits Offered

For more info email cme@tcmedc.org

(See article on page 3 of this issue)

Founders Society Celebration Brunch

Saturday, March 16 at Time TBD
TCMC Lobby

Inaugural Commencement

Saturday, May 11 at 10 AM
Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza

The Commonwealth Medical College

Department of Faculty Affairs & Faculty Development



Pictured left to right: Andrea DiMattia, Mary Roman, Erica Townsend, JoAnn Babish, and Chris Carroll.

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TCMC is committed to non-discrimination in all
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eCHECK-IN

From the North

Greetings from the North campus. Our leadership has been stabilized with our dynamic, newly arrived President and Dean. It is interesting to note the effectiveness and, at the same time, distinct styles of the four Deans we have had. If Dr. Scheinman's first three months are an indicator, we are going to witness a tremendous expansion on the work already done.

We are looking forward to our next faculty development meeting on January 15, 2013. If there are additional features you would like included, please let us know.

We are in the process of preparing for our fifth incoming class. This class will be targeted at one hundred students. As usual, sincere thanks is rendered to all of you for your generous enthusiasm and support in making this happen. Our present fourth year class is thriving in their electives and other opportunities. Admission applications continue to rise and the interviews for residency could not be going any better.

- Dr. Gerald Tracy,

Associate Dean for North Regional Campus Development

From the South

The South campus is continuing to expand in the Berwick and Hazleton areas. There is great room for growth in these areas, and we are pleased with the interest in TCMC shown by the physicians there. I recently met with a number of physicians who are excited and enthusiastic about joining the clinical faculty and working with our students.

Community weeks for MD1 and MD2 students will begin the end of January. The VA Nursing Facility, John Heinz Rehab, Hospice of the Sacred Heart and Amedysis Home Health will be hosting our MD2 students for an interprofessional experience. The MD3 students are progressing through their clinical rotations and will take a practice shelf exam on February 1st. Dr. Mark Schiowitz recently held a surgery journal club meeting that was well attended. Students selected articles of interest which they then presented to the group and a lively discussion followed each presentation. Year 4 rotations have been moving along quite seamlessly. The students are completing residency interviews and are anxiously preparing for Match Day in March.

We are looking forward to our new campus location at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital. The students are eager to have the opportunity to spend more time with preceptors and patients.

- Dr. Michael Ferraro,

Associate Dean for South Regional Campus Development

From the West

Greetings from the West Campus! Our aliquot of the Class of 2014 has been forging ahead into the winter with myriad clinical experiences in many and varied healthcare venues! The Friday Clerkship Education Days ("CED") are all going well, and the students are honing their skills of patient formulation, literature review, and formal didactic presentation. Winter is usually a quiet time here in Billtown, but this year we have a new minor league hockey team, the Williamsport Outlaws, who play in an outdoor ice rink, set up in historic Bowman Field (our local minor league baseball stadium). Many new buildings continue to be built in downtown Williamsport, constantly widening the choices for social events.

Our students are now starting to try to discern their initial ideas of career plans, but we encourage them to develop a broad interest in all medical specialties at this point in their education. We all are excited about this chance to put our experience with the Longitudinal Integrated Curriculum into action a second time, and to continually improve the content and function of the LIC. We welcome any and all of the TCMC community to visit our clinical campus and see our wonderful new hospital building and to see how the face of our city is changing!

- Dr. Keith Shenberger,

Associate Dean for West Regional Campus Development

Regional Affairs

TCMC to Host Obesity Symposium April 6th

The Obesity Epidemic - Prevention & Management

Obesity, considered a chronic disease by the World Health Organization, has reached nearly epidemic proportions both in the United States and globally. According to CDC data, Pennsylvania ranks 20th in obesity rate of all states with 28.6% of the state population obese.

Health care providers have an important role in identifying, preventing, and managing the disease. Despite recommendation and screening guidelines, studies have shown that physicians and other health care professionals are often unprepared to manage the important problem of obesity and its clinical implications. The health care team must be able to consistently monitor weight in their patients as part of routine clinical practice, integrate lifestyle interventions into overweight and obesity management plans, and appraise new and emerging pharmacologic and surgical therapies for the treatment of obesity. Because of the huge increase in complications from obesity, education targeted to physicians and other health care professionals aimed at reducing obesity could improve outcomes in a significant number of patients. This symposium is designed to provide physicians and other health care professionals with information on the prevention of childhood and adult obesity and behavioral, pharmacological and surgical approaches to treating obesity.

Objectives:

As a result of attending this symposium, health professionals will be able to:

- Explain how to assess obesity in the clinical setting and recognize risk factors for obesity related complications.
- Discuss strategies that could be used in a clinical setting to prevent obesity in children and adults.
- Describe various treatment options for obesity including surgical, pharmacological and behavioral.

Registration:

Online registration will be available after January 23rd, 2013 at www.tcmcd.edu.

Printed brochures and registration material will be mailed in early February.

Fee: The fee for the symposium is \$30.00 for TCMC affiliated faculty and staff, \$45.00 for all others. Fee includes a certificate for approved credits (see below) which will be issued within one week after the event. A continental breakfast and break will be included.

Credit Approvals:

TCMC is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians. TCMC designates this live activity for a maximum of 4.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

The Nesbitt School of Pharmacy at Wilkes University is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education as a provider of continuing pharmacy education. Participants who attend the full program and complete an evaluation form will be awarded a statement of credit at the conclusion of the program for .40 CEUs (4 hours). ACPE # 0097-999-12-057-L01-P.

Wilkes University is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the PA State Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. Nurses who attend will receive a certificate for 4 hours at the conclusion of the program. This program is approved for four (4) continuing education hours for social workers applicable toward NJ/PA/LSW licensure renewal.

Marywood University is recognized by the National Board of Certified Counselors to offer continuing education for National Certified Counselors. They adhere to NBCC continuing education guidelines. This program is approved for four (4) ACT 48 professional development hours for Pennsylvania educators.

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Update on Interprofessional Education and the NECPA-IPEC

*by Edward F. Foote, PharmD
Visiting Professor, TCMC*

There continues to be a lot of excitement around Interprofessional Education (IPE). I've been busy working on the MD4 selective IPE rotations. Each TCMC student is required to complete a two week rotation in a healthcare setting that utilizes a high-functioning interprofessional team. This IPE selective can occur in a number of different settings allowing students to foster individual interests. I am working on the syllabus for the rotation and cultivating sites for the medical students. If you know of practice settings which function in a team-based setting, feel free to contact me.

The original impetus for the Northeast/Central Pennsylvania Interprofessional Education Coalition (NECPA-IPEC) came from TCMC. The NECPA-IPEC consists of 11 independent colleges and universities throughout Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Lycoming counties and the NEPA Area Health Education Center (AHEC). In addition to its regional, non-centralized model, the NECPA-IPEC is also unique in that it is inclusive of many more professions.

The NECPA-IPEC is busy with a number of initiatives. For example, four of us from TCMC (Maurice Clifton, Ginny Clarke, Diane Haleem and myself) visited the University of Washington in Seattle for a Visiting Scholars program on December 17th and 18th, 2012. In addition, the NECPA-IPEC is about to launch its own web site!

The fourth annual NECPA-IPEC Collaborative Care Summit will be held on March 20th, 2013, from 4-7:30 PM at multiple sites simultaneously. If you would like to be on our email list and become more active in the IPEC, contact me at Edward.foote@wilkes.edu. We look forward to working with you as we promote this important endeavor! We hope you can help us serve as facilitators.

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Dr. Simoyan Receives Prestigious AAMC Award

Olapeju M. Simoyan, M.D., M.P.H., B.D.S., is the recipient of the 2012 Herbert W. Nickens Faculty Fellowship award, which is presented annually by the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) to an outstanding junior faculty member who has demonstrated leadership in the United States in efforts to eliminate inequities in medical education and health care.

The AAMC selects one candidate for this award annually amongst nominees from accredited U.S. medical schools. The recipient receives a \$15,000 grant to support his or her academic and professional activities.

Dr. Simoyan was acknowledged for her contributions in developing TCMC's collaborative public health program with East Stroudsburg University and for her work in developing curricula related to oral and mental health.

Congratulations, Dr. Simoyan!

Research Opportunities

Have an idea for a research project and would like assistance from a medical student? Contact your regional education specialist.

Regional Education Specialists

North: Devon Fawcett 570.504.9624
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South: Patty Staskiel 570.825.7247
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West: Jill Taggart 570.327.6081
JTaggart@tcmedc.org

Student Happenings

TCMC Students Successful in Early Match



Scott Dalane



Trevor Echelmeier

We are pleased to announce that the first of TCMC's fourth-year students have successfully matched into residency programs as part of the military match program for students in US military medical careers. Trevor Echelmeier has matched in Radiology at Madigan Army Medical Center and Scott Dalane matched in Radiology at Walter Reed National Military Center. For both students, these programs were their first choice.

While most graduating seniors from US Medical Schools participate in the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) and learn of the locations of their residencies at noon on Friday, March 15th, military programs have a separate process in December. In addition, Ophthalmology, Plastic Surgery, and Urology use processes that are earlier than the NRMP.

The rest of TCMC's medical students have been interviewing across the country in a wide range of specialties and programs and join nearly 16,000 fourth-year medical students and 20,000 independent students to compete for 26,000 open residency spaces across the nation. Please join the TCMC community in congratulating Trevor and Scott on this great accomplishment!

TCMC Students Lend a Hand Post Hurricane Sandy in New York

Robert Gessman, TCMC MD Class of 2013, witnessed the destruction caused by hurricanes Ike and Gustav in 2008. On November 17th, 2012, Rob and 30 TCMC students headed to Staten Island, NY, to respond to Superstorm Sandy's destruction of his hometown. An emergency medical technician before enrolling in medical college, Rob was in Los Angeles interviewing for a residency program when the storm hit. For several days, he could not get in touch with his family. "It's scary not knowing the condition of your family, your home," he said. "It felt like I was a world away."

When he headed home, Rob found that his parents' home was without power, but was spared the damage seen at the shore. He visited shelters, asking first responders and those whose homes were hit hardest what they needed. "It's so important for me to give back," said Rob. When he returned to Scranton, he organized a collection drive at TCMC and solicited donations. Rob was impressed with the willingness of his classmates to give up a weekend, when they could have been studying, for a cause that means so much to him. "It's an exciting and inspiring cause to work for," he said.

