MEMORIAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES: MEETING OF DECEMBER 10, 2014

Members Present:

Dr. Tomer Begaz
Dr. Yvette Bordelon
Dr. Daphne Calmes
Dr. Esteban Dell’Angelica
Dr. Tom Drake (co-chair)
Dr. Ron Edelstein
Dr. Michael Gorin

Dr. Ed Ha
Dr. Lee Miller (ex-oficio)
Dr. Mark Noah (co-chair)
Dr. Jessica O’Connell
Rikke Ogawa (ex-oficio)
MacLean Sellars, MSII
Maya Smolarek, MS III

Dr. Catia Stermini
Michelle Sun, MSIII
James Weinberger, MSII
Dr. Isaac Yang

Dr. Yvette Bordelon
Dr. Daphne Calmes
Dr. Esteban Dell’Angelica
Dr. Tom Drake (co-chair)
Dr. Ron Edelstein
Dr. Michael Gorin

Dr. Lee Miller (ex-oficio)
Dr. Jessica O’Connell
Rikke Ogawa (ex-oficio)
MacLean Sellars, MSII
Maya Smolarek, MS III

Guests:

Dr. Clarence Braddock
Dr. Neveen El-Farra
Joyce Fried

Laura Pescatore
Dr. Carl Stevens
Dr. Margaret Stuber

Dr. Sebastian Uijtdehaage
Dr. Paul Wimmers
Dr. Sharon Younkin

Staff:

Margaret Govea
Gezelle Miller

Zachary Terrell

Time Called to Order: 4:35PM
Time Adjourned: 6:00PM

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<td>Announcements – Dr. Tom Drake</td>
<td>Dr. Isaac Yang has been appointed as Block 8 co-chair, replacing Michael Sofroniew. Dr. LuAnn Wilkerson will begin a six-month sabbatical in January 2015. She and Dr. Feinberg will focus on the CICARE initiative and how to improve the physician/patient relationship. Dr. Neveen El-Farra will serve as Interim Associate Dean for Curricular Affairs.</td>
<td>Informational</td>
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<td>Review &amp; Approval of November Minutes – Dr. Tom Drake</td>
<td>The minutes were reviewed.</td>
<td>Minutes were approved.</td>
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<td>Biochemistry Thread Update – Dr. Esteban Dell’Angelica</td>
<td>Esteban Dell’Angelica, PhD, reported on his activities as head of the Biochemistry Thread, in response to MEC concern last year about student complaints on the AAMC Graduation Questionnaire about their not being prepared for the clerkships by the HB&amp;D biochemistry curriculum. While results for all schools on this item were the same as the national level for the “poor” response (10%) in 2009 and 2010, UCLA “poor” responses began to increase in 2011 and peaked in 2012 at slightly over 30%, well above the consistent national rating at 10%. The good news is that in 2014, the rating returned closer to the national level. Internal surveys on preparation for USMLE Step 1 on various topics conducted by students Steve Blum, Stephanie Cham, and David Di Tulio, indicated that third year students in 2012, 2013, and 2014 felt significantly less</td>
<td>Informational</td>
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well prepared in biochemistry than in other subjects.

Since being appointed Thread Chair in February of 2014, Dr. Dell’Angelica has:
1. Reviewed all biochemistry lectures for the class of 2016 and is continuing to monitor those for the classes of 2017 and 2018.
2. Mapped the content of Lippencott and First Aid for the Boards – Biochemistry to demonstrate what is currently present in HB&D. The essential topics are being covered but may not be recognized as biochemistry.
3. Worked with Co-Chairs of Block 3 to attempt to ‘streamline’ the series of lectures on metabolism with proposed changes to become effective in Winter 2015.
4. Met individually with each professor giving relevant lectures in Block 3 to receive and provide feedback and suggestions.
5. Worked with Prof. Michael Carey, Vice-Chair of the Department of Biological Chemistry, to develop a plan for the ‘orderly turnover’ of the more senior (retired) faculty giving lectures on Biochemistry.
6. Created a Biochemistry review session aimed at students preparing for USMLE Step I after the end of Block 9. The session was rated by 65% of participants as moderately to extremely helpful.

He identified his future plans for the thread, including
1. To repeat each year (hopefully with improvements) the Biochemistry review session for MS2 preparing for USMLE Step I.
2. To engage Co-Chairs and relevant faculty from Blocks other than 3.
3. To provide MS2 with a ‘map’ of the lectures they have had covering topics of Biochemistry of relevance to USMLE Step I. Each year, class-specific map.
4. To tag with keywords all lectures with content that is relevant to Biochemistry.
5. To provide the faculty members teaching lectures on Biochemistry with examples of USMLE Step I questions directly related to the content of each lecture.
6. To go ‘beyond the lectures’: To review and propose suggestions to improve the teaching of Biochemistry in ways that show how it will help them in the clerkships. Extend biochemistry into the clerkships via a basic scientist on rounds.
7. To work with other medical schools on strategies that they are using for biochemistry curriculum.

Student members commented that students may not recognize biochemistry content and that labeling and noting its importance in medicine would be helpful.
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| 2013 Step 1 Results – Dr. Sebastian Uijtdehaage | The mean USMLE Step 1 scores for 130 first time takers from the Class of 2015 was 239 with a standard deviation of 18 vs. the national mean of 228 with a standard deviation of 21. The minimum passing score was 188 and 2 first time takers fell below this level. When compared to the national distribution of scores, a larger percent (40%) of DGSOM students scored from 246 to 260 compared to 20% nationally. 35% of DGSOM students were also more likely to score between 231 to 235 than at the national level, which was approximately 27%.  

All of the topical scores were clustered at .5 standard deviation above the national average, including biochemistry.  

A discussion ensured about whether the scores are high enough for the very competitive residencies. The Department of Surgery requires a score of 241 in order to be invited for an interview. Neurosurgery requires a 240. There were suggestions on how to help students improve their scores without overly stressing USMLE Step 1 importance:  
Frame Step 1 as a gateway for more competitive residencies.  
Provide more information about Step 1 earlier in the curriculum.  
Encourage students in the Class of 2018 to choose the new grading system  
Help student improve their test taking skills relative to USMLE  
Stress the relationship between doing well on the required curriculum and Step 1 scores.  
Raise expectations for Step 1 performance without overly stressing students out. | Informational |
| Update from Drew – Dr. Daphne Calmes | Drew has begun mapping the objectives of their CDU program to the Entrustable Professional Activities.  
As part of the ultrasound curriculum, Drew will order machines for their SIM Center. | Informational |