

Curriculum office

Improve the health of the communities we serve through education, biomedical research and health care.

<http://www.upstate.edu/com/curriculum/>

Letter from Dean Christner

The Curriculum Office is responsible for managing, coordinating and evaluating the medical school curriculum. In addition, we provide support to the students, faculty, and administration.

Greetings,

I recently had the good fortune to be part of a national panel sponsored by the AAMC (Association of American Medical Colleges) on the Physician Competency Reference Set for Curriculum Inventories and how these relate to curriculum mapping. I am very happy to report that Upstate Medical University is in many ways ahead of the curve in curriculum mapping.

While we still have things to work out, the efforts on this project, led by Karen Kelly, have truly launched us as a leader in this area. All medical schools are still grappling with the best ways to capture all the activities that comprise medical education. We will continue to work on this with the goal of having a

database that will be accessible to all students and faculty in the near future.

As we prepare for a New Year, our students are busy preparing for the next phases in their education. Our second year students will be taking their Step 1 exam – remember the deadline is May 11th!!! Our third year students will be attending a Mandatory Session on Electives and the 4th Year on January 20th! And our fourth years are busy finishing up interviewing and will soon be submitting their Match Lists!!!

Whatever you celebrate, I hope you are able to spend time with friends and family this holiday season. See you in the New Year!

Dr. Jennifer Christner



Middle States Accreditation Update

In November, President Eastwood received notification from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education accepting our Periodic Review Report and reaffirming accreditation. In fact, Upstate received a commendation for the quality of the Report. The next evaluation visit will take place during the 2018-19 academic year.

New Practice of Medicine Course Directors

Joni Mitchell, MD

Director, Practice of Medicine...



It is my pleasure to introduce the Director of the College of Medicine Practice of Medicine Course, Dr. Joni Mitchell!

Dr. Mitchell graduated from Upstate Medical University and completed her Internal Medicine residency at Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre, PA. She joined the Veterans Administration Hospital in 1999 and has held numerous leadership and teaching roles including current roles as: Program Director for the Chief Resident in Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Program, and the VA Medicine Department Chief with direct oversight of all inpatient and outpatient Medicine programs. In addition, she has been a faculty member of Upstate since 1995 and is the Upstate Internal Medicine Residency Program VA Site Director.

Dr. Mitchell has been a Practice of Medicine Small Group Instructor since 2000, and was appointed as Associate Director of the Practice of Medicine Course in 2013. She was also selected as the Communication Component Director of the Clinical Bioethics and Communication Course in 2013. Joni has an abundance of energy, enthusiasm and patience. Her students rave about her and want to emulate her. I am thrilled with what she has brought and will continue to bring to the Practice of Medicine Course. She officially took over on June 1.

Alison McCrone, MD

Associate Course Director...



It is my pleasure to introduce the new Associate Course Director of the College of Medicine Practice of Medicine Course, Dr. Alison McCrone!

Dr. McCrone graduated from Colgate University in 1998 and St. George's University School of Medicine in 2003. She completed a residency in pediatrics and a fellowship in Pediatric Emergency Medicine at the Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo. She joined the Department of Emergency Medicine at Upstate in 2009 and shares a joint appointment as an Assistant Professor in both the Department of Emergency Medicine and the Department of Pediatrics. She is board certified in both Pediatrics and Pediatric Emergency Medicine.

In 2012, Dr. McCrone was appointed as the medical director for Upstate Golisano After Hours Care, our pediatric urgent care at the Community Campus. She is currently a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and also serves as a corporate board member of the Department of Emergency Medicine's medical service group. Her research interests include pediatric snowboarding trauma and accidental window fall trauma in children.

Welcome



Meghan Freed Phase 1 Coordinator

The Curriculum Office welcomes Meghan Freed as the new Phase 1 Coordinator. Meghan earned a Bachelors in Communications from University of California and a Masters in Clinical Psychology from Antioch University in Santa Barbara.

One year ago, Meghan relocated to Syracuse to be with her then fiancé Robert who is in the military. In October, Megan and Robert returned to California for her wedding.

Prior to coming to Upstate, Meghan worked for almost a year in HR at Crouse Hospital. In Meghan's new role, she will help coordinate the POM course as well as help coordinate curricular transformation in the 1st two years.

From the Office of Evaluation, Assessment and Research

Here are some warm thoughts for this cold winter from the Office of Evaluation, Assessment and Research:

You're famous

The stars of the video showcasing some of the many groups that use student feedback here at Upstate should be excited to know that we presented a poster about the video at the AAMC conference and a write up about it appeared in The Pediatric Educator.

Examining Exams...

To the MS1 and 2s: After each unit exam, when you're enjoying a few well-earned moments of relaxation, the Course Directors, Course Coordinators and I are examining test item analytics to ensure that the exam items were fair. Things have been going very smoothly this year thanks to Colleen Denniston who has been retrieving, formatting and disseminating the reports and Karen Kelly who worked extensively with Exam Soft to ensure that we could get the reports.

Paying it Forward...

To the MS3s and MS4s: One of the new initiatives that we are working on is a system for collecting data about your experiences with away electives so that your ideas can be compiled and shared with one future students as they consider away electives. Current MS4s, we will ask you about your away elective experiences during March into Residency, so please try to remember what you'd like future students should know about the away electives that you're participating in. Current MS3s, next year you will have access to the feedback from the MS4s and will be asked about your experiences in effort to build a communal resource for future students.

Thank you

I'm writing this update on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and though I know that you will receive the newsletter in a week or so, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude to all of you for your participation in and support of our ongoing and developing evaluation and assessment efforts. It is an absolute honor to work with you all.

Lauren J. Germain, Ph.D., M.Ed.

Director of Evaluation, Assessment, and Research



**You said...
We did...**

MS1 & MS2

- ⇒ MS2 students gave a lot of good feedback regarding Sexual Health Day. Dr. Christner met with Dr. Johnson and the following changes will take place for next year:
- ⇒ Dr. Joni Mitchell, member of the Sexual Health Task Force and Director of POM will take over administration and organization of Sexual Health Day.
- ⇒ All lecturers have received feedback and will make changes accordingly.

MS3&MS4

- ⇒ MSIII student representatives have informed the Phase 2 and Curriculum Committee about student unrest regarding variability in expectations for clerkship standardized patient experiences.
- ⇒ For the next academic year, all the clerkship standardized patient cases will be reviewed by the Clinical Skills Committee before being implemented in clerkships. This will help standardize expectations and grading issues.

Committee Updates

The Curriculum Committee shall be responsible for recommending curriculum coordination, development, objectives, content and methods of evaluation to the Dean.



Curriculum Committee— Jenny Christner, MD

The Curriculum Committee has approved a new communication skills checklist for use in the Standardized Patient Program beginning with the 2015-16 Academic Year. The new checklist was recommended by the Clinical Skills Committee and has been used by other medical schools as well as already being validated and published in the literature. The checklist closely mirrors the communication skills needed for the Step 2 CS exam.

Speaking of Step exams, the Committee also approved a new USMLE Step Policy for the medical school that will also go into effect for the 2015-16 Academic Year. The Step 1 Policy is being revised due to a variety of concerns that have come up during Academic Review Board Meetings. In general, it is felt to not be in the best interest of students for them to continue in clerkships after having failed Step 1. Therefore, any student who fails their Step 1 exam will be pulled from their clerkship rotation. The Phase 2 Academic Review Board, working closely with Student Affairs, will determine when the Step 1 exam should be retaken. After sitting for the repeat exam, the student may reenter clerkships pending clerkship availability.

The Policy on Mistreatment was revised and renamed as the Policy on Learning Environment and Mistreatment. This was done to place more emphasis on creating a positive learning environment for all learners!

In the New Year we will begin annual reviews of Clerkships and Courses. We are also hearing proposals for some changes to current courses and will keep you posted on those!

Phase 1—Tom Poole, PhD

Students have provided a lot of useful feedback at recent Phase 1 meetings about the types of post-exam reviews or feedback that would be most useful to them in the MS1 and 2 years.

The MS1s will be taking a year-end gateway exam this year from the NBME Custom Assessment Service <http://www.nbme.org/schools/cas.html>. We will be providing more information on how to approach this comprehensive year 1 exam.

We have to thank Dr. Kaushal Nanavati for giving an outstanding overview of Integrative Medicine as it might be added to the medical curriculum.

The Curriculum Committee reviewed and approved changes for the Phase 1 curriculum. Dr. Poole has hosted a student forum and 2 faculty forums regarding the changes. In addition, he is presenting the changes at department meetings throughout the campus.

The curricular changes focus on transitioning to a systems-based unit curriculum. The Practice of Medicine Course would run longitudinally thru years 1 and 2 as would a new Case Based Course that incorporates problem based learning and directly relates to the Systems Based Units.

We are looking for a new Case Based Director for this course and basic science and clinical faculty Co-Course Directors to run each Systems Based Unit. If you would like more information about these positions, please contact me at christnj@upstate.edu.

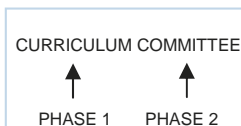
Phase 2—Paul Ko, MD

Phase 2 has been busy with lots of new ideas and initiatives to improve the student experiences in the Clerkships and 4th year. We have monthly meetings where we go over reports from your surveys of the clerkship, and look at data

from each clerkship such as Duty Hours, Mid-Clerkship Feedback sessions, Clinical Logging, Direct Observation, Grades in the clerkships, and the various policies that involve students. Student representatives and their input at these meetings are vital, so make sure to speak to your class reps if you have questions about what is being discussed at these meetings.

We completed our annual Phase 2 retreat in November where we discussed the specific topics regarding the curriculum inventory and looked at the objectives being taught and assessed in each of the 3rd year clerkships. Each teaching activity in the Clerkships was examined for their teaching objectives, and assessment methods in fine details. We also looked at how we are teaching medical students to work in Interprofessional teams in our clerkship years, and came up with ideas to increase collaboration between students from different healthcare fields. We all know that clinicians work with many other healthcare providers in delivering excellent patient care (nursing, social work, PT/OT, pharmacy to name a few) and it is important to begin teaching these collaborative skills even in medical school. The plan is to implement some of these ideas and activities for the clerkship beginning the next academic year.

We have also been busy at work in the Clinical Skills Exam (CSE) subcommittee at our end of MS3 year CSE exam as well as each Standardized Patient case in the clerkships. You can read more about this committee's work in our blog site (<http://sunyupstateassistantdeans.blogspot.com/>). Dr. Poole and I hope to post on this blog regularly and give everyone a glimpse into what we do, some of our ideas, and general musings. We are always open to your ideas, and hope to hear from you if you have questions, concerns, or suggestions for the curriculum! Happy Holidays.



Student Spotlight: Heitham Wady



The month of November is also referred to as **Movember**: a month of growing out mustaches for the sake of Men's Health. Every year at Upstate, the MSIs and IIs raise funds and public awareness for testicular cancer, prostate cancer, and mental health through public campaigning both in person and through various social media platforms.

As the leader of the MSI's Movember Initiative, I wanted to create something that would spread the news of Movember, elicit a positive emotional response from the class through laughter, get the stu-

dents interested and motivated, and ultimately boost class participation in this great cause. Through the invaluable help of my friend and peer, Manu Arul, we were able to film, edit, and present a video to both the MSI and MSII classes. Since the video's premiere I have seen significant spikes in fundraising on our class's Movember Page.

A big thank you is due to the professors, Dean Duggan, and President Eastwood for their incredible roles played in the video.

Heitham Wady

Upstate's MSI and II classes were able to raise a combined \$2747 for Movember Campaign

Youtube Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7fVo_YfchIQ

MSI Movember Page Link: <http://us.movember.com/team/1676573>

Jasmin Sahbaz



Jasmin Sahbaz poster presentation at the AAMC in November

Rural Medicine Education Update:



Upstate Medical University is celebrating the 25th anniversary of Upstate's Rural Medical Education program, better known as RMED. RMED was introduced by the Department of Family Medicine in 1989 with a goal of alleviating the state's ongoing shortage of

physicians who practice general medicine in New York's rural communities. In the ensuing years, 215 students have graduated from this program that has proved successful in providing primary care and specialty physicians for rural practice.

Dr. Jim Greenwald, RMED Director and Carrie Roseamelia, RMED Coordinator visited long-participating RMED hospitals to present them with a commemorative award as a thank you for their dedication to the program.

In October the RMED team visited Thompson Health Center and Oswego Health Center. Program preceptors, former RMED students and hospital administrators were present to receive the award.



Carrie Roseamelia, RMED Coordinator discussed her PhotoVoice research project with HealthLink's in October. The goal of the PhotoVoice project is to better understand how the rural community setting interacts with students' clinical experiences. Students captured photos and provided vignettes to describe their experiences. Preliminary findings suggest students felt appreciated, part of the medical team, and were given considerably more opportunities to participate in hands on learning while training in the program. Many participants provided positive reflections on their time in the rural



community and will consider returning to practice in those communities in the future.

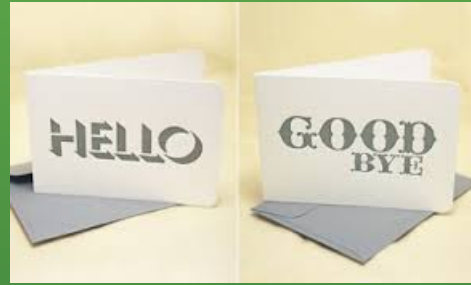
Link to HealthLink:

<http://blogs.upstate.edu/healthlinkonair/2014/10/09/changes-in-perception-among-rural-medicine-students/>

For more information about the RMED program, contact Carrie Roseamelia at roseamec@upstate.edu.

NEUROLOGY: *Samantha Garafalo recently left Neurology to take a position outside of Upstate at Time Warner. In early November, Lisa Kelly took on the role of Neurology Clerkship Coordinator. Lisa is a recent MPH graduate from Boston College.*

OB-GYN: *Joyce Goodwin is retiring for her second time from Upstate on January 23. Joyce joined Upstate in 1964 and retired from the Presidents Office in 1996. She returned in 2004 as the OB-GYN Clerkship Coordinator. Joyce is very excited to be retiring for her final time. Joyce has worked part time for 27 years in real estate sales, and is looking forward to doing more of this in retirement. Sarah Edwards will assume the role of Clerkship Coordinator, in early January. Sarah served as the OB-GYN Residency Program Coordinator at the Boston Medical Center for three years. She recently completed an MS degree in Health Communications from Boston University.*



JOB POSTING: MS1/2 Case-Based Course Director

This is an exciting opportunity for someone interested in directly impacting medical students and a major portion of their curriculum. We are seeking an energetic individual to design and direct a new course that incorporates problem-based learning along with other forms of active, self directed learning into a required course for year 1 and 2 medical students.

To achieve this, the course will contain elements of existing courses. However, it will also need to incorporate other topics as guided by accreditation bodies and will need to directly integrate with the Systems Based Units in years 1 and 2.

Further information the current curriculum can be found at: <http://www.upstate.edu/com/curriculum/courses/>.

The successful applicant will be expected to have a MD or DO and a faculty appointment at Upstate Medical University. The candidate should have strong leadership and interpersonal communication skills with a background in medical education and interest in medical education scholarship. A proven record of medical education leadership is highly desirable. We expect that physicians who are generalists would be the best fit but all interested parties are welcome to apply. The position will report to the Assistant Dean for the Foundational Sciences (Thomas Poole, PhD) and work with him to develop course content, assessment strategies and aligning the course with ongoing changes in the undergraduate medical curriculum. This position will also work closely with the Assistant Dean for the Clinical Sciences (Paul Ko, MD) and all the MS1 and MS2 Systems Based Unit and Thread Directors. This position is part of the Curriculum Office supervised by Jennifer Christner, MD, Associate Dean for the Undergraduate Medical Curriculum and will be supported with 0.75 FTE protected time. Funds to support faculty/career development in medical education will also be provided.

Interested applicants should email a CV and Letter of Interest by **February 1st** to Susan Anderson, Anderson@upstate.edu, Director of the Curriculum Office.

Medical Education Research Update:

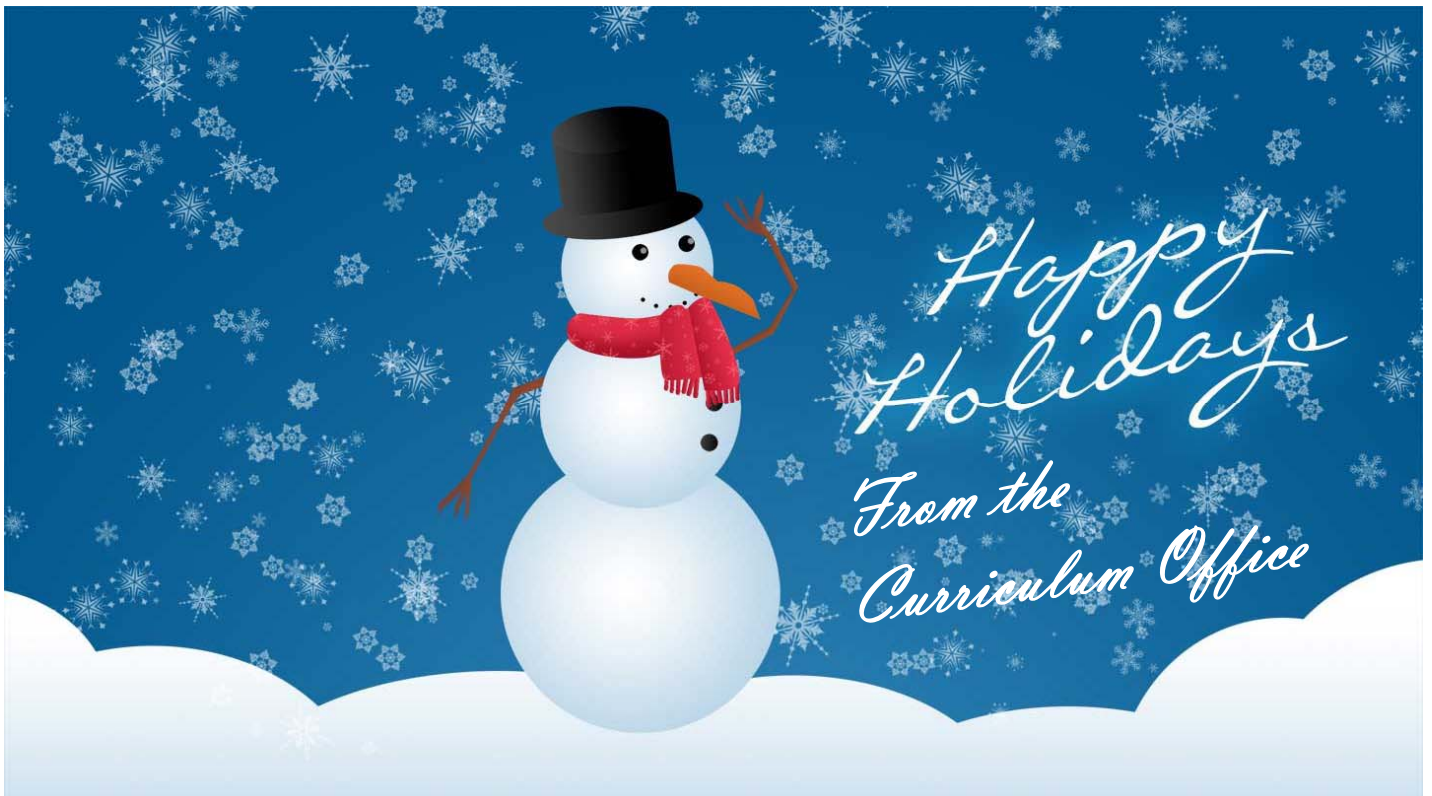
The MedEd Research Team is developing research projects focusing on medical education. We currently have four projects underway including one project lead by Lisa Oliver, Lauren Germain and Carrie Roseamelia examining Upstate's peer learning environment. The research team is currently conducting focus group interviews with MS4 students, examining their MS3 experiences with peers.

Dr. Germain, Dr. Christner, Lisa Phelan, and Carrie Roseamelia published "SUNY Upstate's "We use it" Video Campaign: Improving the Utility of Student Feedback through System Transparency" in the *Pediatric Educator: Council on Medical Student Education in Pediatrics* in October. <http://www.comsep.org/scholarlyactivities/pdf/PediatricEducatorOct2014.pdf>

The work was also presented as a poster at the 2014 AAMC Annual Medical Education Conference in Chicago, IL in November.

Upstate had two additional presentations at the AAMC meeting.

- * Dr. Christner was a member of the AAMC hosted Panel Discussion on Aligning School Competencies to the Physician Competency Reference Set for the Curriculum Inventory.
- * Dr. Christner gave a workshop with colleagues from Albert Einstein and Central Michigan University medical schools on Standard Setting for Clinical Skills Assessments.



For questions regarding this publication, please contact Lisa at PhelanLA@upstate.edu or 464-7004