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OSR Administrative Board Update

Rob Stenger, OSR Chair, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine,
rstenge1@jhmi.edu

Annual Meeting/Officer Elections—The OSR Ad Board has created a dynamic agenda for the OSR portion of the AAMC Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, November 3-6. The meeting will include sessions on medical student debt, the evaluation of medical students, curriculum change, and international opportunities for medical students and much more! The preliminary program is available on the OSR Web site. Please register for the Annual Meeting as early as possible, as hotels fill up quickly. This year, a reduced cost hotel option is available only to OSR representatives. At the annual meeting, elections will be held for five national delegate positions as well as OSR Chair Elect. If you are interested in running for one of these positions, please contact any member of the Ad Board. For more information, please visit the OSR start page:
www.aamc.org/members/osr

Student Debt—The final report of the AAMC Working Group on Student Educational Costs and Debt was released in March and can be found on the AAMC student debt page: www.aamc.org/studentdebt/. Since then, the OSR Ad Board has continued work on this important issue. In June, the OSR Ad Board visited Capitol Hill and spoke to house members' staff about medical student debt. In addition, the OSR leadership has been working with student leaders from AMSA to develop a conference on the financing of undergraduate medical education. This conference will be held on Capitol Hill on September 21st, 2005. The conference will bring together students and residents, medical school administrators, government officials and others to discuss the problems created by rising medical student debt and potential solutions to these problems. The conference will be web-cast by the Kaiser Family Foundation.

LCME Issues—In June, the OSR Ad Board met with Dr. Carol Aschenbrener, LCME Secretariat-AAMC, to discuss medical student participation in the LCME accreditation process. In August, OSR leadership had a conference call with Dr. Aschenbrener and the AAMC appointed LCME student member, George Sanchez. The Ad Board is continuing to work with LCME staff to help prepare students to participate in the accreditation process at their schools. This year, a portion of the LCME training session at the AAMC Annual Meeting will be devoted to the preparation of students to participate in upcoming LCME site visits.

AAMC Presidential Search—In June, members of the OSR Ad Board participated in discussions with AAMC leadership regarding the AAMC presidential search. At the request of the search committee, the OSR Ad Board provided a list of nominees for the AAMC presidential position to the search committee. The search process is ongoing and OSR will continue to participate by providing the student perspective to the search committee, especially as potential candidates are identified.

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Graduation Questionnaire—Response rates for the 2005 GQ were low compared to past years. Declining response rates threaten the validity of GQ data. The OSR is committed to ensuring that the GQ remains a valuable source of information. The Ad Board will continue to work with other student groups and the Group on Student Affairs (GSA) to improve response rates in 2006. In addition, individual school GQ reports will soon be available to OSR representatives online through the OSR password protected Web site.

Ongoing Projects—There are a number of OSR projects underway, including:

- **Guidelines for Use of Medical Interpreter Services**—the OSR “interpreter cards” were reviewed by the Group on Educational Affairs (GEA) Steering Committee in June and the Group on Student Affairs (GSA) Committee on Student Affairs in July. Both groups were impressed by the guidelines and recommended moving forward with the project. The interpreter cards are in review by AAMC governance and staff and, upon approval, will be finalized and produced soon.
- **Communications Graphic**—Thanks to Sara Brenner, OSR national delegate for Communications, OSR now has a graphic that explains how OSR reps communicate with medical students, the OSR Ad Board and medical school administrators. The interactive graphic can be viewed from the OSR Web site.
- **AAMC Humanism in Medicine Award**—the Humanism in Medicine Award Selection Committee met in July to select the 2005 award recipient. The recipient will be announced at the AAMC Annual Meeting in November.
- More information on these projects and reports from the OSR national delegates, regional chairs, and liaisons can be found on the OSR Web site at www.aamc.org/members/osr/.

Spot a Spot, Save a Life...

**National Melanoma Awareness Project, UC Irvine School of Medicine, melanoma@uci.edu
Jason M. Phillips, OSR Representative, UC Irvine School of Medicine, jmphilli@uci.edu**

(National Melanoma Awareness Project: Jeanette Waller, William Rietkerk, Jason Phillips, Ken Lam)

As a second year medical student at UC Irvine School of Medicine, Joel Myres was diagnosed with recurrent metastatic melanoma. While at UCI, Joel was an inspiration to those around him, appearing in both National Geographic and on the Discovery Channel for his efforts in medical science. Sadly, one year later, Joel passed away after battling this deadly cancer. Melanoma is the fastest growing cancer, and skin cancer is the most prevalent cancer in the US. However, the skills to identify melanoma are often under-taught in medical school. At UC Irvine, we are battling the rising numbers and promoting skin cancer education to local junior high and high school students.

The student-initiated student-run Joel Myres’ Melanoma Awareness Project (MAP) was begun in 2004 as an education service project to help today’s youth protect their skin from cancer. Taking Joel’s name, the project brings medical students into the community to teach teenagers about skin cancer, melanoma, skin safety, cancer prevention and self screening. Over twenty UCI medical students taught 2,000+ teenagers. Co-founder Jeanette Waller highlights the importance of the project, “Do an internet search on ‘kids and melanoma’ and you will be surprised to see how common it is becoming. Five to ten percent of all melanoma deaths are in the under 25 years old category. It’s scary and I want to be part of the solution.” In fact, medical student participants have already referred 5 suspicious lesions to physicians, and they have encountered 3 students who have already battled melanoma.

Medical students interested in all specialties are lending a hand. Indeed, since most skin cancers are diagnosed or referred by primary care physicians, the skill is integral in our clinical training. Third year medical student Ray Grijalva commented on his experience last year, “As a second year student interested in ER, I was looking forward to learning more about this deadly disease so that one day I can catch it in clinic. I felt I *really* learned about skin cancer, but what’s even better is that I felt the students heard me.”

The next step in the Melanoma Awareness Project is to share our knowledge with you, other medical students, so that melanoma awareness and skin cancer education can be addressed across the nation. The importance of this issue is highlighted by the fact that 10 States are currently reviewing legislation to make melanoma education mandatory for primary school. There is an urgent need and we hope to share our materials with you and your medical school classmates. Please feel free to pass our message along and to email us at melanoma@uci.edu for further information so that we can tackle this problem. Together we can help put melanoma awareness in every classroom.

Calling All Student-Run Clinics!

Danielle Waldrop, OSR National Delegate for Community and Diversity, Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, dwaldrop@siumed.edu

An ongoing project for the Community and Diversity members has been compiling information about the various student-run clinics offered at medical schools. Although there are some resources available, we are trying to compile a list that is current and up to date. A link is posted on the AAMC OSR start page (www.aamc.org/members/osr) requesting information. We hope to hear from all medical schools to find out the names as well as contact information for student run clinics.

It is our hope to provide this information as a resource to assist schools that do not have a clinic as well as provide those schools with existing clinics resources and contacts to gain new information. Therefore, we hope that all of you will take a few minutes and forward this information to a member of the Community and Diversity team:

- Danielle Waldrop (dwaldrop@siumed.edu)
- Raeshell Wilson (rsw250@med.nyu.edu)
- Natalie Woods (woods.49@wright.edu)
- Michelle Shaw (shawm@ohsu.edu)
- Kathryn Heim (kahend03@gwise.louisville.edu)

Thank you in advance for taking the time to send your student-run clinic information. We will keep you updated on our progress in this quest for information that will hopefully become a valuable resource to students. Also, I appreciate all of you who have already submitted this information after seeing the request on the OSR Web page.

BEYOND BOUNDARIES . . .**AAMC Annual Meeting November 3-6, 2005 Washington, DC**

The 2005 AAMC Annual Meeting is being held in Washington, DC from November 4-9 with **OSR programming from November 3-6**. OSR sessions will be held at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel.

OSR Program: The preliminary program for the OSR portion of the AAMC Annual Meeting is now live from the OSR Web site www.aamc.org/members/osr/annualmtg2005.htm (Also located on the calendar from the OSR start page www.aamc.org/members/osr/)

Student Registration: The student registration fee is \$275. To register, please go to www.aamc.org/meetings/annual/2005/registration

Housing: For information on housing for the meeting, please go to www.aamc.org/meetings/annual/2005/housing

AAMC is pleased to announce that we have secured a limited number of rooms at a reduced rate for students for the 2005 AAMC Annual Meeting.

Days Inn

4400 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20008
Phone 202-244-5600
Toll Free 1-800-952-3060
www.daysinnwashington.com

Reservations and Room Rates for the Days Inn**Reservations must be made prior to October 12, 2005.**

The room rate, which is subject to a tax of 14% is: \$119 Single/\$129 Double Occupancy

To make your hotel reservations, please call the national reservations office at 1-800-329-7466 or the hotel directly at 1-800-952-3060 or 202-244-5600. Please be sure to reference the booking code "AAMC" to receive the discounted rate.

OSR Newsletter

Would you prefer a paper edition of the OSR Newsletter mailed to you, or do you prefer the online PDF?

Please email Ally Anderson at aanderson@aamc.org with your response.

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