



## DARTMOUTH MEDICAL SCHOOL

### SENIOR ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION

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**To:** Members of Medical Education Committee  
**From:** David W. Nierenberg  
**Subject:** Minutes - Meeting held Tues., May 20, 2008 - 4:00 to 5:30 pm, Aud. G

**Voting Members Present:** Rich Comi, Scottie Eliassen, Tom Frandsen (Year 1), Brent Harris, Horace Henriques, John Hwa, Susan Kelly (Yr. 3), Bill Kinlaw, Gene Nattie, Dave Nierenberg, Rebecca Pschirrer, Eric Shirley, and Erin Sullivan (Year 1).  
 (n =13)

**Voting Members Absent:** Narath Carlile, Andy Daubenspeck, Brian Guercio (Yr. 2), Greg Ogrinc, Michelle Oullette (Year 2), Jim Price, Laura Reis (Yr. 4), and Alan Rossi (Yr. 4),  
 (n = 8)

**Guests and Non-Voting Members:** Lori Alvord, Charles Barlow, Leslie Fall, Matt Goldenberg, Diane Grollman, Joan Monahan, Cathy Pipas, Brian Reid, Kalindi Trietley and Kristen Yurkerwich  
 (n =10)

### Scheduled Meetings:

Sept. 25	Oct. 16	Nov. 27	Dec. 18	Jan. 22	Feb. 19	Mar. 25	Apr. 15	May 20	June 17
Aud. B	Borwell 658	Borwell 758	Aud. A	Aud. F	Aud. A	Aud. A	Aud. A	Aud. G	Borwell 758

### I. Report on LCME Step 2 CK

Dave Nierenberg reported that Year 4 students recently took Step 2 CK of the USMLE Board exams between July 2007 and March 2008. Of the 72 that took the exam, only two failed. Of the two, one immediately repeated the exam and passed, and the other had not intended to match for a residency so is not going to retake.

## II. Course Review: Year 1 Biochemistry (Metabolism)

Based on Student Evaluations and other information, Kalindi Trietley presented a review of the Metabolism discipline of the Year 1 Biochemistry course. (Attachment A).

A. A summary of the Metabolism portion of the course is as follows:

1. In general, the students who took the course in AY08 scored the course higher than the students who took it in AY07
2. The strengths of the course are:
  - a. Clinical correlations
  - b. Integration with other courses
  - c. End-of-course summary and synthesis
  - d. Review sessions
  - e. Majority of faculty
3. Suggestions for improvement include:
  - a. Increase number of questions per quiz
  - b. Improve Dr. Chang's notes, presentation style, and test questions
  - c. Spend more group time reviewing key lecture concepts (less on literature)
  - d. Start course with structural overview
  - e. Reflect classroom emphasis more on tests (less small and peripheral detail)

B. Charles Barlow addressed some of the issues raised, his comments included the following:

1. Variations in students' previous biochemistry experience is addressed with smaller sessions for students who need extra help. Dr. Culp is especially proficient in this area
2. The issue of clinical correlation is being examined, but the major concern is finding faculty
3. Texts are not required for the course; they are recommended reading. The Lippincott text is a good book for review.
4. An ongoing concern is the subject matter of the course and the level at which the course should the course begin coverage

## III. Review of Progress on Year 3 Restructuring

Dave Nierenberg reported that three plans are under consideration for restructuring the architecture of Year 3 to allow for electives. He stated that his

goal was to get detailed information into the hands of the MEC so that the membership can vote at the June 17 meeting. The detailed information, including the perceived advantages and disadvantages of each plan is contained in Attachment B.

The plans presented are:

- A. Model A: 4x12 Plan (4 blocks of 12 weeks each, beginning on or about June 22)
- B. Model B: 7x7 Plan with Delayed Start (7 blocks of 7 weeks each, beginning on or about June 29)
- C. Model C: 7x7 Plan with Regular Start (7 blocks of 7 weeks each, beginning on or about June 22)
- D. Current Model: 6x8 Plan with Regular Start (not considered at the meeting since all pertinent members are familiar with it)

Dave's presentation was followed by a full, spirited, and detailed discussion of the pros and cons of each of the three plans that seem to have the most support at present.

Dave also laid out the timetable for discussion and a final decision at the June MEC meeting, to be followed by further discussion and action by the Dean, the DAB, and, ultimately, the general faculty. Students and faculty who will not be available to attend the June meeting will be able to vote electronically.

### III. Agenda for June 17 (Borwell 758):

- A. Update on CPMC clinical affiliation (Medicine clerkship)
- B. Vote by membership of preferred plan regarding Restructuring of Year 3