



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., Dec 12, 2006 - 4:00 to 5:30 pm, Borwell 758

Voting Members Present: Rich Comi, Barbara Conradt, Leslie Fall, Horace Henriques, Susan Kelly, Gene Nattie, Dave Nierenberg, Rebecca Pschirrer, Laura Reis, and Eric Shirley = 10

Voting Members Absent: Jamie Bessich, Andy Daubenspeck, Brian Guercio, Brent Harris, John Hwa, Petra Lewis, Ben Northrup, Greg Ogrinc, Michelle Oullette, Sarah Pletcher, Jim Price, Abigail Rao, Valerie Rooney, and Joao Tiexeira= 14

Guests and Non-Voting Members: Diane Grollman, Brian Reid, Lora Thompson, and Kalindi Trietley = 4

Scheduled Meetings:

Sept. 12	Oct. 10	Nov. 14	Dec. 12	Jan. 16	Feb. 13	Mar. 13	Apr. 17	May 8	June 12
758 W	Fuller	Fuller	758 W	758 W	758 W	758 W	758 W	758 W	758 W
Borwell	Bd. Rm.	Bd. Rm.	Borwell	Borwell	Borwell	Borwell	Borwell	Borwell	Borwell

I. [Scheduled Review of Clerkship: Year 3/4 Neurology](#)

Dave Nierenberg reviewed the Year 3/4 Neurology clerkship for AY 05-06 and provided the following information:

- A. Neurology is a required clerkship that is taken by nearly all students during their fourth year. Last year, about 60 students took it, and 35 students completed the evaluation.

- B. The clerkship director is Mo Levin and is really “run” by the Section of Neurology, within the Dept. of Medicine. The Section may become a department in the future. There are line items in the department’s budget that support this clerkship, salary support for both Dr. Levin and the coordinator.
- C. There are four clerkship sites include the following (with number of students who completed the survey): DHMC Wards and Consult service (25); VAMC (3); DHMC Pedi Neurology (6); and DHC/Manchester (1).
- D. For general assessment questions, scores were good to very good overall.
- E. Most scores were somewhat site specific.
- F. Performance on USMLE Step II taken during AY 2005-6 (for neurology and special senses as an organ system) were 0.10 SD above national mean overall; all organ systems, Neuro/special senses was 11th out of 12. (Note: some students take Step II CK prior to clerkship.)
- G. The main challenges to the clerkship are as follows:
 - i. Lack of cultural diversity in patients. Medical Education is currently searching for an additional clerkship site that will provide increased patient ethnic diversity for multiple clerkships.
 - ii. Lack of coordination of didactic sessions. DHMC can organize a lecture using PowerPoint with sound that would be accessible over the internet.
 - iii. Unequal patient encounters between in-patient and out-patient. Given that the clerkship is only four weeks, it would be difficult to coordinate an equitable mix.

II. Possible Restructuring of the Architecture of Year 3

- A. After much discussion and many conferences, Drs. Shirley and Nierenberg decided it would be best to stick with the “6x6” plan, rather than change to the “7x7” plan. The contributing factors for the decision are:
 - i. The expected influx of students has dropped from 85 to 78 or 79, so the capacity issue is more manageable;
 - ii. The 7 clerkships/7 weeks proposal would be very difficult for students in far away clerkships to return at the end;
 - iii. The compression would negatively affect the quality of clerkships with three different components;
 - iv. Although an optimum system would provide electives in Year 3 (and consequently give advantage to students who would like to match early), only three specialties have early matches and the system would create capacity issues;
 - v. Clerkships can currently offer didactics lectures for six cycles but probably not for seven cycles; and

- vi. The Office of Medical Education is currently searching for an additional clerkship site that would, among other things, prevent further capacity issues and provide for electives.
- B. Dave Nierenberg will recommend that Clerkship Directors allow for increased student capacity for AY '08 when considering the budget.

VI. [Agenda for Jan. 16 Meeting:](#)

- A. Review Year 3 clerkship: Ob/Gyn;
- B. (To be determined)