

## Group on Student Affairs (GSA) **COMMITTEE ON ADMISSIONS (COA)**

October 6, 2011

BULLETIN

### **Guidelines for Pre-Medical and Medical Students Providing Patient Care Abroad**

**Background:** Pre-medical advisors reported an increase in the number of opportunities and interest among premedical students for becoming involved with patient care abroad. Concurrently, pre-medical advisors and some medical school admissions officers have expressed concerns about the legitimacy and professionalism of some of these clinical opportunities, noting students have sometimes been placed in compromising positions and performed inappropriate procedures. Consequently, the National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions (NAAHP) requested that COA establish guidelines for pre-medical students modeled after those established by American Dental Education Association (ADEA).

**Rationale:** COA agreed that establishing guidelines for pre-medical students doing clinical work abroad would provide advice for the protection of pre-medical students and set expectations for appropriate experiences in the context of ethical and appropriate behaviors for everyone involved.

**Process:** This issue was raised during a COA conference call in the summer of 2010 and a decision made to place it on the agenda for the COA November, 2010 meeting. Upon discussion, there was unanimous support for the concept and appointment of one pre-medical advisor (Charles Hauck, NAAHP representative to the COA) and one medical school admissions officer (Robert Ruiz, Central Group on Student Affairs representative to the COA) to draft the guidelines. Permission was acquired from ADEA to model the initial draft after that organization's guidelines. The draft was reviewed and approved by COA and Henry Sondheimer, AAMC Director of Student Affairs and Student Programs, and carried forward to the GSA Steering Committee by the COA chair. The GSA Steering Committee was supportive of the guidelines; but, requested that they be expanded to include 1) medical students and 2) cultural sensitivity towards the patients. Revisions were made and approved by the COA, AAMC staff and GSA Steering Committee on February 25, 2011.

**Status:** This project is complete; the guidelines are available on AAMC GSA admissions Website at:  
<https://www.aamc.org/download/181690/data/guidelinesforstudentsprovidingpatientcare.pdf>

**Project Leadership:**

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Robert Ruiz, CGSA Representative to COA; Director of Admissions, University of Michigan Medical School  
Steven T. Case, Ph.D.; COA Chair; Associate Dean for Admissions, University of Mississippi School of Medicine  
Henry Sondheimer, M.D., AMMC Senior Director, Student Affairs and Student Programs  
Review/Approving Entity(s): COA, GSA Steering Committee

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