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Family Medicine Curriculum Resource (FMCR) Project (January 2003 Update)

Janice E. Nevins, MD*

* Christiana Care Health System

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Family Medicine Curriculum Resource (FMCR) Project (January 2003 Update)

Background

A significant project in undergraduate medical education is the Family Medicine Curriculum Resource (FMCR) Project. The FMCR Project is funded through a four-year (2000-2004) contract from the Division of Medicine and Dentistry, Bureau of Health Professions, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM) to develop a resource for use by medical educators to design and implement curricula to prepare medical students for practice in the 21st century.

The end product of the FMCR Project will address family medicine's contributions to all four years of medical student education. It will include strategies dedicated to the preclerkship education of all students and pre-requisite competencies for entering third-year clerkships, and is being developed in collaboration with educators in general internal medicine and general pediatrics.

Materials which define the family medicine clerkship's contribution to the development of the clinical skills of all medical students, and materials dedicated to post-clerkship preparation of medical students seeking residency training in family practice or related primary care disciplines, also are to be included. Additionally, the FMCR Project will address these seven curricular areas of particular interest to the government in this contract: genetics, oral health, geriatrics, end-of-life care, informatics, Healthy People 2010 objectives, and substance abuse, including mental health.

Project Leadership and Advisory Committee

The project leadership Executive Committee consists of Project Director Jeffrey Stearns, MD, and Project Co-Directors, Alec Chessman, MD, and Paul Paulman, MD. The Executive Committee is advised by a 20-member Advisory Committee which includes representatives from these twelve organizations: American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOF), Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), Association of Departments of Family Medicine (ADFM), Association of Family Practice Residency Directors (AFPRD), American Medical Student Association (AMSA), Ambulatory Pediatric Association (APA), Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine (CDIM), Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM), Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM) and STFM's Group on Pre-doctoral Education. In addition, there are seven other members-at-large on the FMCR Advisory Committee with expertise in the seven areas of specific interest to the government and/or hold medical school/national leadership positions. A family practice resident also serves on the Committee.

Project Highlights

- The six ACGME competencies provide an overarching framework for the FMCR end product in order to create a continuum between medical student education and residency training. (For more information about the ACGME

competencies, visit www.acgme.org.)

- A web-based end product is envisioned, containing multiple resources that could be used for curriculum design and development as well as specific resources for curriculum implementation.
- The end product will have the potential to be used by several tiers of users, including those responsible for curriculum design and those responsible for implementation. In this way, it can be used to meet needs at the institutional, departmental and individual levels.
- Two workgroups are in the process of utilizing the ACGME framework as a guide for developing the FMCR end product.
- The Pre-clerkship Collaborative Workgroup, including equal representation from family medicine, internal medicine and pediatrics, has identified six key areas for emphasis in the decision-maker tier. These areas include modern clinical epidemiology, data gathering in the real world, life-cycle issues, communication skills, systems of care, and professionalism.
- The Family Medicine Clerkship/Post-Clerkship Workgroup, which consists of educators from family medicine pre-doctoral and residency programs, has identified three themes which distinguish the family medicine clerkship curriculum: Prevention & Wellness, Acute and chronic illness management, and Community and population-based medicine. The group is working to establish general competencies in these areas and to cross-reference these with the ACGME competencies. The next phase of development will focus on topics important to family practice, and the seven government topics. A module on bio-terrorism was developed to pilot the conceptual framework and will be circulated soon for comment.

You can visit the FMCR Project Web site at <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/dm/famed.htm> for more information. Further information about the FMCR Project can also be obtained by contacting Ardis Davis, MSW, Project Manager (ardisd7283@aol.com or 425-423-0922) or the Federal Project Officer, Brenda Williamson, MA (bwilliamson@hrsa.gov or 301-443-6821).

About the Author

Janice E. Nevins, MD, is Chair of the Department of Family and Community Medicine for the Christiana Care Health System.