

## Integrating a New Course Across the Curriculum

The **Kirkville College of Osteopathic Medicine (KCOM)** acquired CurrMIT to aid in curriculum assessment. John T. Heard, Jr., Ph.D., vice president for research, grants, and information systems, reports that CurrMIT is already proving an invaluable tool in an ongoing study at KCOM. KCOM was the first osteopathic institution to use CurrMIT under a special contract agreement between the AAMC and the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM).

### The Challenge

KCOM needed to enhance the academic infrastructure of the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health and evaluate the impact of a new four-year generalist training program. KCOM was awarded a Bureau of Health Professions grant to study the impact of an evolving longitudinal generalist course, The Complete DOctor. Ultimately, the grant will enable better assessment of student performance, instruction, curricular content, and overall outcomes of The Complete DOctor course as a primary care thread running throughout the entire curriculum. Prior to making any curricular modifications, KCOM needed to identify content areas where duplication or insufficient coverage might result. The school needed a database to help achieve these objectives.

### The CurrMIT Solution

CurrMIT was brought on board in Fall 2000 after much research and review of options both internally and externally. Margaret Wilson, D.O., the project director, began by initiating curriculum data entry on The Complete DOctor course. The initial entry of two quarters' worth of data confirmed that the database has the components needed for the study and will facilitate the analysis of the course's longitudinal integration into the generalist curriculum. Educators also used CurrMIT search features to examine and compare course and curriculum components of other medical schools that also utilize CurrMIT.

### The Benefits

Even with data entry still in progress, CurrMIT already functions as an intelligent repository for analysis of the new DO course data. Searches in CurrMIT allow educators to identify and evaluate the integration of the primary care threads in various external curricula. Dr. Heard notes that this initial successful use of CurrMIT for The Complete DOctor course project at KCOM is being evaluated for future use in other areas of internal curriculum research. Through the agreement between AAMC and AACOM, other osteopathic medical schools are also beginning to use CurrMIT for curriculum documentation and analysis.

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