

## Shaping Course Development

CurrMIT's capacity as a cross-institution curriculum database makes it critical to the success of curriculum development and enhancement initiatives. Dr. Chris Candler, M.D., who was, at that time, Director of Educational Development and Research, **University of Oklahoma College of Medicine**, reported that "the ability to compare our data with other schools" positively impacted a recent effort to update an Anesthesia course.

### The Challenge

The appointment of a new course director for Anesthesia prompted a need to better understand and redefine the existing course. As instructors re-examined their own themes and focuses, they also sought data from other schools. Instructors approached educational research staff to identify the content and experiences other institutions were delivering in their Anesthesia courses.

### The CurrMIT Solution

Relying on CurrMIT course and topic data entered by other medical schools, the Department of Educational Development and Research ran reports across institutions focusing on Anesthesia. Reports were designed to include all courses with Anesthesia as a topic. Staff were able to identify the context under which the Anesthesia content was being covered, how it was organized, where it occurred in the curriculum, how it was being assessed, and, if they needed more information, the faculty that were teaching it.

### The Benefits

In this case, CurrMIT facilitated an electronic sharing of specific information across institutions that was cost-efficient and immediate. The information yielded by reports resulted in new approaches to Anesthesia coverage within the institution, and increased awareness of alternative curriculum initiatives. CurrMIT's value in this regard increases exponentially as other institutions add to the database, offering more substantive information and more depth to the searches.

**More information:** This report was prepared by Chris Candler, M.D., who was, at that time, Director of Educational Development and Research, University of Oklahoma College of Medicine. Currently he is Co-Director and Editor, MedEdPORTAL and Director of Educational Technology with Division of Medical Education at Association of American Medical Colleges in Washington D.C. He can be reached at (479) 787-9772 and [ccandler@aamc.org](mailto:ccandler@aamc.org).