

## Supporting Facilities Planning

The comprehensive data already held by CurrMIT made it a valuable tool at the **University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston**. The database has contributed to internal facilities planning by offering comparisons with estimated facilities profiles at other schools.

### The Challenge

An initiative to decrease laboratory space at the medical school compelled study by a number of interested parties. In order to understand this initiative's impact on subsequent space allocation and course offerings, Dr. Andy Payer, Associate Dean for Educational Affairs, wanted to examine and evaluate required laboratory hours in curricula offered at all medical schools in the U.S. Dr. Payer felt that required laboratory hours, as an indicator of laboratory space, would provide insight and direction for discussions on the initiative.

### The CurrMIT Solution

The Office of Educational Development used CurrMIT to identify lab hour requirements at all schools with data in CurrMIT. Nearly 100% of all U.S. and Canadian medical schools have already entered data relating to educational methods, including coursework being delivered in laboratories. CurrMIT's report allowed faculty to break down the data in different ways. Reports were customized to determine the number of laboratory hours assigned to courses by discipline, offering a quick and clear picture of laboratory hour allocation across courses and institutions.

### The Benefits

The comparative information yielded by CurrMIT gave educators and researchers an idea of current lab usage nationally. While results of the CurrMIT study are being examined and used to support arguments from both sides on the impacts of reductions in laboratory space and time, Bob Joyce, Associate Medical Educator and CurrMIT Coordinator notes that, without CurrMIT, such speedy analysis of national data would not have been possible. Not only did the study achieve its primary objective of examining other schools' laboratory allocations, it offered insight into how institutions across the country employ varying levels of laboratory usage throughout their curricula. Both the kind of data obtainable from CurrMIT and the speed at which the data could be obtained combined to make CurrMIT a valuable ally in this study.

For more information, contact Robert Joyce, Associate Medical Educator, University of Texas Medical Branch, Office of Educational Development, Galveston TX 77555; [bjoyce@utmb.edu](mailto:bjoyce@utmb.edu); (409) 772-2791.