

# AAMC-OSR 2006 Seattle Digest

A brief review of this year's Annual Meeting. For more detailed information please contact Adam Travis, OSR National Delegate for Communications via email: [adam.r.travis@louisville.edu](mailto:adam.r.travis@louisville.edu)

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## RECAPPING THE BIG STUFF...

- **Conflicts of interest with industry in academic medicine** are a major point of concern for academic leaders, students, and the general public alike. While some institutions have already gone so far as to completely forbid pharmaceutical and device reps from stepping foot on their medical campuses, most students within the OSR think that total isolation is unrealistic given widespread dependence on the fruits of advertising (e.g. drug samples and CME) and instead favor further development of educational and training opportunities on how to deal with the status quo.
- **"ALL HAIL THE MATCH REPORT"** served as a mantra for this year's meeting as reps from across the nation gave overwhelmingly positive remarks about the recently released [NRMP/AAMC "Charting Outcomes in the Match" report](#). While the report may not hold the secret to obtaining that dream match in dermatological urology, it was widely considered to debunk many of the myths surrounding the necessary qualifications to match in the so called "most competitive" residencies as well as provide much more insight into how one stacks up against his/her fellow applicants. The OSR Ad Board is currently working on a follow-up proposal to promote the continuation of such publications and to improve the quality and type of data released. As always, suggestions from OSR reps are encouraged!

## THE COMMITTEE BUZZ...

- **Medical education** delegates have been busy with initiatives to promote development of curricular programs for teaching students to teach and education on financial and business aspects of medical training and practice.
- **Student affairs** delegates are working on building strategies to better facilitate the transition of new reps into their school and national roles and ensure all reps more effective in their positions. Other areas of current investigation include good practices for "scramble" success, increasing student debt awareness and education, and quality of coverage under student health plans.
- **Legislative affairs** delegates are trying to improve how legislative updates are conveyed to the OSR by weighing the benefits of a more condensed and less frequent newsletter focused on the legislative happenings most relevant to students, such as information on changes in federal loans. Our delegates are also assisting with AAMC efforts to appeal Congress to commission a study on the present and future impacts of medical student debt on physician supply.
- **Community and diversity** delegates have been assisting with existing AAMC efforts to improve minority recruitment through the development of [www.AspiringDocs.org](http://www.AspiringDocs.org).
- **Communications** delegates have been busy brainstorming new communications tools. In the meantime, communication can be bolstered by encouraging use of the national listserv for all surveys and by recommending that reps be aware of the dates of Ad Board meetings (see the calendar portion of our homepage.... <http://www.aamc.org/members/osr> ) so that they can brief their regional chairs on any important issues before these take place.

## OTHER TOPICS OF NATIONAL INTEREST...

- **Policies on "podcasting"** or other similar means of recording lectures for online availability were widely discussed and indicated a vast array of offerings at schools across the nation, ranging from two-speed video broadcasts to simple mp3 recordings to nothing at all. Although some schools have resisted providing such tools because of the need to protect intellectual property and a fear of reducing lecture attendance (despite there being no known consistent data on the effect of such services on lecture attendance), most schools have some form of this service.

- **Methods of evaluating professionalism** were discussed and compared in several regions and range from the simple completion of all course and faculty evaluations to the more complicated establishment of school committees to investigate student- or faculty-reported unprofessional conduct. While most schools have some avenue by which to address an egregious lack of professionalism by a given student(s), few schools seem to have devised effective ways to systematically integrate the evaluation of professionalism into all coursework and clerkships.

## WHAT WERE REPS CONCERNED ABOUT IN...

### THE CENTRAL REGION?

- **School policies on curricular remediation:** total repeat vs. deficiency-focused reassessment
- **School-based programs for USMLE preparation** as well as remediation programs for failure
- **Career-building programs for women in medicine** to address gender disparity in academic leadership positions, e.g. school deans, department chairs, and full professors
- **Policies and training to address sexual harassment** in school, interviews, and residency
- **Programs for student wellness** including school lectures and access to confidential counseling

### THE NORTHEAST REGION?

- **Formal critique of the USMLE** in gauging competency; also, evaluation of CME programs
- **Improving and standardizing the specification of 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> year clinical responsibilities**
- **Creating and expanding clinical simulation programs** (such as the program at Texas A&M presented at the meeting) to enhance student training while minimizing substandard care
- **Student logging of diagnoses and procedures** to assess school deficiencies in training
- **Improving the AAMC flight discount** for travel to residency interviews
- **Performance on mock Step 2 CS programs:** graduation requirement, graded, or practice?
- **Student clinical safety training programs:** content and location within the curriculum

### THE SOUTHERN REGION?

- **Determination of rotation order and selection (if any) in 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> year** and the amount and location of elective time as well as the number of allowed away rotations
- **School policies on funding and/or policing social events serving alcohol**
- **Development of satellite campuses** and other measures by schools to increase enrollment
- **Best practices for preparation for LCME accreditation visits**
- **Cost and availability of lecture notes/supplements** and the format of such materials
- **Selection process for new OSR reps:** level of input from students, faculty, administration
- **Parking!!** The never-ending saga...cost, availability, access to campus, safety, the list goes on...
- **Creation of an "After the Match" document** consisting of a collection of student stories and experiences on the residency interview and match process that span many specialties

### THE WESTERN REGION?

- **Policies and practices on tuition increases** and their deterrence of undergraduates to medicine
- **Allocation and usage of student fees** for student travel, groups, and service...how's it divided?

*This digest is comprised of topics and opinions recorded in the regional minutes written by each of the four regional communications delegates. If you think something was omitted or have any other comments about the digest, PLEASE EMAIL ME. THANKS!! --Adam*