

# OSR News

Organization of Student Representatives

## Welcome to the OSR Newsletter

Welcome to the new monthly OSR newsletter! Your Ad Board has created this newsletter to keep you informed about the latest developments in the OSR and in academic medicine as a whole. Each month, we will feature articles on hot topics like the NBME's clinical skills examination (a.k.a. Step 2B or SPE) and OSR projects such as the Student Access to Healthcare Survey. We will also focus the spotlight on outstanding student programs from around the nation. We believe that this newsletter will provide a vibrant new way for us to share experiences and ideas throughout the OSR.

As we begin to evolve into this new medium, we hope that you will guide us in how best to make this newsletter work for you. If you have an idea for a future edition, please let us know via Eunice Peterson, Communications Representative-at-large (epeterson@mmc.edu).

Best wishes,  
Michael Rosenthal  
Chair, Organization of Student Representatives  
mrosenth@med.unc.edu

## NBME Update

The National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) has been working on a Standardized Patient Exam (SPE) for about a decade. As specific plans for the exam have emerged, the medical student body and the OSR have raised increasing concerns about the purpose, effectiveness, and costs of the SPE. As discussed at the Palm Springs OSR meeting, the base cost of the exam is estimated to be \$975 plus travel expenses - approximately \$1600 in total, per student.

Recently, the AAMC Executive Council passed a **resolution** that we co-authored with the Council of Deans that opposes the implementation of the exam until alternate funding sources can be found. The resolution suggests that re-licensure fees for practicing physicians could be such a source and urges the NBME and the Federation of State Medical Boards to work collaboratively to explore this option. We are very pleased that this resolution also suggests that all USMLE exam fees be funded through this mechanism or a viable alternative.

## In the Spotlight: Frontera de Salud

Frontera de Salud is a non-profit service organization founded and staffed by medical, nursing and allied health students at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston that is committed to bringing primary healthcare to the under-served. Working through the Brownsville Community Health Clinic, Frontera is conducting special weekend clinics bringing basic services to Valley residents such as breast and pelvic exams, Diabetes education including diet and exercise regimens, Breast Cancer awareness, Hypertension and Diabetes surveillance for new onset of disease as well as monitoring for ongoing treatment. The purpose of Frontera's mission is three-fold: (1) to address community health issues by delivering cost-effective primary care to communities in need, (2) to further the competency of Frontera volunteers by providing clinical settings in

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which to perfect their burgeoning skills, and (3) to encourage students to reflect on the profession of healthcare as a moral practice. Frontera assumes that most students go into the health professions motivated, at least in part, by a service ideal. All too often, however, the demands of school and career preclude putting charitable ideals into action, curtailing the moral development of health care professionals. Frontera is committed to encouraging the moral ideal of medicine, complementing the didactic component served by medical ethics courses with a practical outlet focused on patient service, advocacy and charity. For more information on Frontera de Salud, please visit our website at <http://studentlife.utmb.edu/frontera> or contact [klsmith5599@yahoo.com](mailto:klsmith5599@yahoo.com) or Maria Munoz at [mjmunoz@utmb.edu](mailto:mjmunoz@utmb.edu).

## **In the Spotlight: Boston University School of Medicine Outreach Van Project**

Mission Statement: The BUSM Outreach Van Project has a mission to fulfill the unmet needs of the medically underserved populations in the Greater Boston area particular to health care and access to services, while providing an opportunity for students to learn skills in community outreach.

The Outreach Van Project is a student-run, student-directed project that was started in January 1997 by a group of medical students from Boston University. Outreach Van leaves BUMC staffed by no fewer than four volunteers consisting of students from the Schools of Medicine, Dentistry, Public Health, and Social Work and a licensed physician. We provide food, clothing, blankets, education/referral information and basic medical care to the homeless and underserved. Volunteers on the van are involved with talking to people on the streets, performing outreach work, tying people into existing community services and providing health education. On the more medical side, students based on their training, are involved in taking blood pressures, eliciting histories and attending to basic medical needs under the supervision of a physician. Since January 1998, the van has maintained a committed schedule of once a week to bring services to the underserved communities of East Boston.

## **2002 AAMC/OSR Annual Meeting**

This year's Annual Meeting, November 8-10 in San Francisco, CA, is fast approaching. We have some excellent programming planned including plenary sessions on such topics as:

- ◆ "Errors in Medicine: Forgive and Remember"
- ◆ "Industry Relations"
- ◆ "Building Morale Across the Continuum of Academic Medicine"

We are also planning breakout sessions on such topics as:

- ◆ Student Role in the LCME Accreditation Process
- ◆ Clinical Skills Teaching and Evaluation - State of the Art in the Curriculum
- ◆ Role Modeling and Positive Learning
- ◆ Bioterrorism in Medical Education
- ◆ Student Community Service Projects
- ◆ Student Insurance and Access to Healthcare
- ◆ Legal and Moral Issues of the Current URM Definition
- ◆ Alternative Careers for Doctors
- ◆ Alternative Ways to Fund Medical Education

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For more information on these sessions, including abstracts and speaker names, visit:

<http://www.aamc.org/members/osr/annualmtg2002.htm>.

Registration: <http://www.aamc.org/meetings/annual/2002/registration/start.htm>

Housing: <http://www.aamc.org/meetings/annual/2002/housing/start.htm>

## New OSR Listserv

In response to your requests for improved access to the OSR electronic mailing list, we are moving to a new mailing list system. Rather than maintaining each representative separately in our lists at the AAMC, we are asking each school to create an email alias that will forward to all of their OSR representatives. Our list will only include the generic aliases, which will allow the local chapters to be flexible in their inclusion of new representatives.

If you have not already done so, please ask the IT staff at your school to create an "osrreps@yourschool.edu" email alias and include all of your OSR representatives as recipients. Please notify Ally Anderson ([aanderson@aamc.org](mailto:aanderson@aamc.org)) or Denine Hales ([dhailes@aamc.org](mailto:dhailes@aamc.org)) when you have created the new alias or if you have any questions. We will begin using the new list as soon as possible.

## AAMC Responds to Resident Lawsuit

The AAMC intends to challenge the antitrust lawsuit filed against the National Resident Matching Program, its sponsoring organizations, and a number of hospitals.

<http://www.aamc.org/newsroom/pressrel/2002/020509.htm>

### **Calendar of Events:**

September 17-18, OSR Ad Board Meeting – Washington, DC

November 8-10, AAMC/OSR Annual Meeting – San Francisco, CA

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