

# OSR News *LITE*

All the highlights of this fall's loaded newsletter, but with a sixth of the calories! For more information on any of these topics, please give the real thing a try (note page numbers in parentheses). I guarantee you'll love it.

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## THE OSR ONLINE COMMUNITY IS WAITING FOR YOU...

The AAMC has unveiled the OSR Online Community, which will serve as the new central hub for most OSR announcements and information gathering/sharing. You can access the site at [blackboard.aamc.org](http://blackboard.aamc.org) by using your AAMC login. The site is designed to facilitate increased communication among OSR representatives via electronic discussions, exchange of ideas, consultation, and document sharing (blogs, chatrooms, profiles with pictures, wikis, etc.). **Read more on page 1.**

## THE NEWS IN THE AAMC...

Efforts to revitalize the AAMC for the future of academic medicine are underway. The AAMC recently completed the Strategic Thinking and Positioning (STP) process and has recently begun a review of the governance structure. Other areas of investigation and activity include the following (**read more on page 1**):

- Increasing cost of medical education and the impact on the anticipated physician shortage
- Guidelines for interactions between pharmaceutical industry and academic medicine
- Pilot of new Visiting Student Application Service (VSAS)
- Collection of 'effective practices' for GLBT programs and policies
- Participation in the Committee for the Evaluation of the USMLE Program (CEUP)
- NRMP-AAMC *Charting Outcomes in the Match*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition: data for 2007 NRMP Match

## REGIONAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS...

**Southern Regional Meeting** – Little Rock, Arkansas – April 12-15, 2007 (**read more on page 2**):

Much of the discussion was focused on the availability and flexibility of third and fourth year clinical electives, finding great variability between schools. There was also discussion on topics such as clinical orientation for new third-years, cultural competency education, and online lecture videos.

**Northeast Regional Meeting** – Boston, Massachusetts – April 19-22, 2007 (**read more on pages 2-3**):

Discussion was focused on the optimal use of technology in the curriculum, such as the use of simulation centers for procedural teaching and online interfaces for student logging of patient encounters. There was also discussion of the types of grading methods used for clinical clerkships.

**Central Regional Meeting** – Omaha, Nebraska – April 26-29, 2007 (**read more on page 2**):

Many topics were discussed at the meeting including the schemes used to assign clinical rotation schedules, the creation of standards of professionalism for faculty, and student funding for attendance of OSR meetings. In-meeting surveys covered the topics of career counseling and patient contact in the preclinical years.

**Western Regional Meeting** – Monterey, California – April 29-May 2, 2007 (**read more on pages 2-3**):

Exciting sessions at the meeting investigated issues such as declining public trust in the medical profession and the need for expanded training on GLBT awareness in medical school curricula. Discussions in business meetings were focused on development of curricular programs for professionalism and humanities education.

## THE COMMITTEE BUZZ...

**Community and Diversity** delegates have been focusing their efforts on coordinating OSR volunteer participation at the Minority Student Medical Career Fair at the upcoming meeting (**read more on page 3**).

**Legislative Affairs** delegates released the second edition of *OSR Focus on Legislative Affairs* and have planned an exciting session at the meeting on healthcare issues in the upcoming election (**read more on page 3**).

**Medical Education** delegates have been following up on curricular initiatives raised at the spring meetings, as well as investigating methods by schools to track student-patient interactions (**read more on page 3**).

**Student Affairs** delegates have been busy with two projects: creation of transition materials for newly elected officers and preparation of a high-yield financial aid advice package for students (**read more on pages 3**).

**Communications** delegates have been mostly occupied with preparing this newsletter for the loyal readers of the OSR. The names of newsletter contributors are provided in the full version (**read more on page 3**).