INTRODUCING THE BULLETIN BOARD

Bulletin boards are often packed with notices and advertisements which usually offer information and occasionally amusement to the passerby. It is rare, however, for a notice to actually stimulate reader response to an important issue.

This "poster" is the first edition of a new publication of the Organization of Student Representatives (OSR) of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). Written and edited by OSRA members and AAMC staff, the BULLETIN BOARD intends to focus on information of mutual concern to the AAMC and to medical students.

The BULLETIN BOARD is printed in poster form and distributed on each medical school campus. Due to space considerations, summaries rather than lengthy exposition are expected to prevail, but sources for further reading will be footnoted for those who are interested in a specific topic. The ultimate goal, of course, is to stimulate discussion and feedback. Comments may be expressed to your school's OSR member or directly to the AAMC.

We hope that the BULLETIN BOARD will provide medical students with a useful means of communication and reader reactions will invite for future improvements of format and content.

DE-MYSTIFYING MEDICAL SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

A Marquis de Sade schooled in college haziness, fraternity rush, and red tape must have designed medical school admissions. At worst it's an intricate network of test scores and academic credentials. Twelve portrait lists are screened by committees of faculty physicians who are computers like stock market quotations; interviews are scheduled, accidents in testing, goals are lost or incomplete. While Congress ponders National Health Insurance and specialty and geographic maldistribution, the bottleneck in producing physicians remains admissions. Those available applications have increased approximately 36% in the last 5 years, applicants have tripled. Almost 3 candidates apply for every place, making acceptance of all applications more competitive than ever. Thus, further increases in the volume of applications can be expected to complicate the already overtaxed Admissions process. This situation may grow worse as efforts to attract applicants from all backgrounds continue. In addition, undergraduate colleges report large increases in freshmen planning to be "premed" -- a term synonymous with a competitive grind and monomania. Thus, further increases in the volume of applications can be expected to complicate the already overtaxed admissions process.

In response to grass roots concerns voiced by high school seniors, concern for equitable opportunities in regard to humanizing the admissions process and effecting more economic procedures, the Medical College Admissions Assessment Program (MCAP) was conceived and initiated by AAMC. With adequate participation of all applicants and specific recommendations were prepared in a formal report which was accepted by AAMC. Those goals include clearer definition of applicant selection criteria to be based on those that make a good doctor: better ways for assessing a heterogeneous applicant pool and non-cognitive characteristics of applicants. AAMC MCAP will attempt to address a wider range of skills such as communication and problem solving; and a comprehensive information feedback system to all levels -- premeds, advisors, and admissions committees.

In short, MCAP will attempt to illuminate the recesses of the black box called "getting into medical school" with some rationality and compassion. The cited endeavors could not help but improve the existing situation. Medical school administrators are expected to ultimately affect health care more profoundly than merely changing the financing of patient care. 

OSR Annual Meeting

The OSR Annual Meeting will be held Nov. 10-12 in conjunction with the AAMC Annual Meeting at the Conrad Hilton in Chicago. OSR is sponsoring a program session entitled, "Medical Education: Directions for the Next Decade," in which nationally prominent speakers will explore present and projected responses to curricular needs and current innovative programs in medical education. OSR Discussion Sessions will address such issues as Peer Review, Women in Medicine, Legislation and Medicine, and the GAP Report.

The theme of the AAMC Annual Meeting this fall is "Educating the Public About Health." In AAMC President's Address, William H. Madison, M.D., Chairman of the Board of the Blue Cross Association, will be two of the key speakers addressing the role of government, public service organizations, and medical schools in public health education. Other programs include Specialty Distribution, Quality Assurance and PSRO's, and Student Evaluation.

OSR National Chairperson: Dan Clarke-Pearson, '74, Case Western Reserve U. School of Med. Direct Inquiries or comments to the BULLETIN BOARD to: Mrs. Diane Mathews, Staff Assistant For OSR Liaison, AAMC, Suite 200, One Dupont Circle, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036

WHAT IS THE OSR??

The Organization of Student Representatives (OSR) of the AAMC is a medical student organization representing all the nation's OSR schools in the AAMC as the vehicle for providing student input into the programs and policies of the Association. To provide a better understanding of OSR, a brief description of AAMC is necessary.

Founded in 1876, the purpose of the AAMC is the promotion of quality medical education. Medical schools of the AAMC are accredited by the Commission on Higher Education, and the Association has long been involved in the establishment and implementation of standards and procedures for the running of medical schools, such as the MCAT and AMCAS. These services only scratch the surface of AAMC activities which include federal liaison, international medical education, biomedical research, minority affairs, and the AAMC's programs on health care, education, and institutions.

The OSR was formed in 1971, and provisions were made for student input into AAMC programs and policy making committees. OSR is the only organization which speaks with a single voice for the entire community of academic medicine.

The OSR National Chairperson is Dan Clarke-Pearson, '74, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

All medical schools. For information on the NIRMP Monitoring Program contact either your school's OSR member or directly to the AAMC.

The success of the NIRMP Monitoring Program is hoped that with a mechanism for reporting violations operating on all medical school campuses. Due to space limitations, summaries rather than lengthy exposition are expected to prevail, but sources for further reading will be footnoted for those who are interested in a specific topic. The ultimate goal, of course, is to stimulate discussion and feedback. Comments may be expressed to your school's OSR member or directly to the AAMC.

The OSR Annual Meeting will be held Nov. 10-12 in conjunction with the AAMC Annual Meeting at the Conrad Hilton in Chicago. OSR is sponsoring a program session entitled, "Medical Education: Directions for the Next Decade," in which nationally prominent speakers will explore present and projected responses to curricular needs and current innovative programs in medical education. OSR Discussion Sessions will address such issues as Peer Review, Women in Medicine, Legislation and Medicine, and the GAP Report.

The theme of the AAMC Annual Meeting this fall is "Educating the Public About Health." In AAMC President's Address, William H. Madison, M.D., Chairman of the Board of the Blue Cross Association, will be two of the key speakers addressing the role of government, public service organizations, and medical schools in public health education. Other programs include Specialty Distribution, Quality Assurance and PSRO's, and Student Evaluation.

OSR National Chairperson: Dan Clarke-Pearson, '74, Case Western Reserve U. School of Med. Direct Inquiries or comments to the BULLETIN BOARD to: Mrs. Diane Mathews, Staff Assistant For OSR Liaison, AAMC, Suite 200, One Dupont Circle, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036

FALL 1974