

Organization of Resident Representatives
Association of American Medical Colleges

Administrative Board Meeting Minutes
June 15, 1994
Washington, DC

The meeting was called to order by ORR Chair Michele Parker, M.D. Other members present were Denise Dupras, M.D., Ph.D., Chair-elect, Deborah Baumgarten, M.D., Fernando Daniels III, M.D., William J. Fortuner III, M.D., Nicholas Gideonse, M.D., Michael Greenberg, M.D., and Cathy Halperin, M.D.

Opening remarks were given by new AAMC President Jordan Cohen, M.D. He discussed the new directions he envisions for the Association and its renewed emphasis on education. He also reviewed current developments in healthcare reform legislation and how these might effect future graduate medical education. He expects that there will be federally imposed limitations on specialty training and also constraints on the total number of residency positions. This will inevitably effect the workload of residents and the need to use more non-physician providers to substitute for housestaff. Overall, there is concern that the costs of change, in terms of issues such as replacement workers or the costs of teaching in ambulatory settings, have been underappreciated. Securing a stable funding stream for education is a high priority for the Association in healthcare reform legislation. Dr. Cohen also emphasized the important role the ORR plays in the Association's deliberations, and he thanked the administrative board for their support and their participation in the AAMC's governance.

Chair Michele Parker, M.D. introduced Dr. David Altman, Associate Vice President for Education Policy and Director of the Office of Generalist Physician Programs. Dr. Altman has assumed responsibility for the ORR as of April 1. He explained the restructuring of the Association under Dr. Cohen's direction, and stated that there is an active search for a Vice President for Education Policy who will have responsibility for the Section for Graduate Medical Education. Dr. Altman then reviewed the AAMC's activities with respect to generalist physician training and future plans for his office regarding graduate medical education.

Next Dr. Parker reviewed the minutes of the February meeting; the minutes were approved by the board.

Frances Hall, Director of Student Programs then gave an update on the AAMC Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS) project. The system is being prepared for field testing. Discussions with the American Medical Association (AMA) have led to a decision that the Association's program will be further developed. An advisory committee to ERAS will be appointed and should have resident representation. ORR members should contact Michele Parker, M.D., if interested in serving on the committee.

Robert D'Antuono and Ingrid Philibert of Clinical Services were present to provide a report on the Section on Resident Education (SRE). Robert D'Antuono explained that the SRE was formed about 3 years ago as a professional development committee within the

Group on Education Affairs (GEA). He stressed the need for stronger connections between the SRE and ORR and proposed that a liaison be designated to increase communication between the two groups. The designated resident would benefit from attending the various meetings held by the SRE throughout the year. Dr. Parker added that she was invited to an SRE meeting regarding educational partnerships held in La Jolla, California earlier in June. She stated that the meeting was well-attended by individuals from a broad array of residency programs. Dr. Altman confirmed that Dr. Parker had given a talk on the issues of quality in resident education that was very well-received.

The next agenda item was OSR/ORR activities. The group discussed the possibility of a joint session with the OSR during the September board meeting in order to plan projects for 1995. Both OSR and ORR members have expressed an interest in working together, but due to schedule conflicts it has been difficult to coordinate any joint programs.

Chair-elect Denise Dupras, M.D., Ph.D., reported on the Advisory Panel for Healthcare Reform May 17 meeting. The panel reviewed Senator Kennedy's reform proposal, which is the first bill to include funding for medical schools. There were also two other presentations related to the costs of teaching hospitals and the concerns of children's hospitals. The panel will meet again in July.

The board reviewed a draft schedule of the ORR annual meeting program. In addition to the regular business meeting, there will be two Saturday afternoon sessions. The first session will deal with residency education and training. The second session, a joint presentation with the CAS, will address physician workforce reform. Speakers are being sought for both sessions.

Since the AAMC Executive Council's approval of the ORR by-laws concerning its membership at the February meeting, two additional societies have expressed an interest in being represented by the ORR. They are the Association of Academic Physiatrists and the Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine. (At the June meeting, the Executive Council approved the ORR's recommendation that these societies be allowed to designate residents to the ORR.) There was also discussion of a possible review of the ORR by-laws during the business meeting to determine if anymore revisions are necessary.

Next Mary Beth Bresch White and Steve Northrup of Governmental Relations delivered an extensive update on legislative activities effecting AAMC constituency. Steve Northrup explained there has been virtually no activity on the Stark/HELP bill due to current healthcare reform demands. Several handouts were also distributed on Congressional plans for healthcare. Residents are invited to contact the Office of Governmental Relations for any questions on legislation regarding healthcare.

Finally the board reviewed the Executive Council agenda items which included a recommended change in the ACGME bylaws regarding resident representation, and an analysis of several proposed Congressional healthcare initiatives.

The meeting was adjourned by Dr. Michele Parker.