

The Residents' Report

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Chair's Message

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Unfortunately, this newsletter brings the news of the untimely death of our leader, Dr. Robert Waldman. His support and guidance throughout the difficult process of getting the ORR off the ground will always be remembered and appreciated. We extend our condolences to his family. The AAMC will make a contribution to the Robert H. Waldman Cancer Research Fund; any individual ORR members may contribute. Call Michelle Keyes-Welch for more information.

On the brighter side, things are going quite well. As you can see, the newsletter is up and running, thanks to Michele Parker and Cathy Halperin. Bernarda Zenker has been a tremendous help to us in her new role with the AAMC on the Generalist Physician Task Force. Much work has been done on the policy statement for health care reform about which you will hear at the AAMC Annual Meeting in November. Plans for a joint ORR/CAS session during the Annual Meeting on "Teaching Residents How to Teach," are also being finalized. I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting.

AAMC/ORR Activities

The OSR/ORR Liaison:

Upcoming events for both Organization of Student Representatives (OSR) and Organization of Resident Representatives

(ORR) at the annual meeting in November 1993 are in the works. At the June 1993 Administrative Board meetings, the OSR welcomed ORR members to join in for Capitol Hill visits in November. Details regarding preregistration and an informational briefing session prior to the visits will be forthcoming. Hill visits will occur at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, November 5, before the afternoon Transition From Medical School to Residency Forum.

Congratulations to Geronimo Sabagun, ORR member, for being appointed to The American College of Physicians Council. Geronimo will represent the Western Region.

Informal dinner meetings will also take place at the November annual meeting, where both residents and students may sign up for dinner at various Washington D.C. restaurants. Details will be forthcoming.

In addition the ORR was invited to the OSR reception on November 5, following the Transition Forum.

AAMC Office of the Generalist Physician

The Office of the Generalist Physician is a newly created office of the AAMC since November, 1992. Bernarda Zenker, M.D., immediate past chair of the ORR, has taken a position with the office. The staff will consist of a director, two salaried M.D. positions, and a staff associate. Their objectives are to develop a database to function as a resource for training of the generalist physician. Congratulations to Bernarda.

Electronic Residency Application

Soon medical students may be able to apply to residencies via a computer application process, which would also incorporate deans' letters and save thousands of dollars in postage. The issue of security and the fear of excessive numbers of applications have been raised. A preliminary survey of residency directors showed a very favorable response. The proposed process will be discussed in detail at a

ACGME UPDATE

The AAMC has been interested in increasing resident participation on the ACGME. The AAMC's Section for Graduate Medical Education has been working to secure a resident vote on the ACGME. Initially, one vote for a member of the ORR was requested. This proposal did not pass. The second proposal of the AAMC was to share the resident vote between all the sponsoring organizations with a resident group. The ACGME responded by sending this proposal to their Committee on Structure and Functions. In an effort to not let this issue get lost, the AAMC has now decided to send an amended letter suggesting that the resident member be appointed in a fashion similar to the public member. This procedure involves the majority vote of the representatives of the member organizations. We will keep you updated on the ACGME response.

forum during the annual meeting, Saturday, November 6 at 3:00 pm. If you will be unable to attend the meeting, but would like to express your thoughts and concerns, contact Barbara Tardiff of the ORR.

ORR/CAS Annual Meeting Session - "Teaching Residents How to Teach"

Much enthusiasm for this topic was raised at the last annual meeting, so it was decided to conduct a workshop for the ORR and CAS (Council of Academic Societies) at the November annual meeting. Neal Whitman, Ed.D. Professor and Director of Educational Development, in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine at the University of Utah School of Medicine, and Marilyn Appel, Ed.D. Director of Curriculum and Evaluation of the Primary Care Residency Training Program, at Hahnemann University School of Medicine, will conduct three 35-minute workshops, followed by questions and answers. The workshops include Building a Ward Team, Verbal and Non-verbal Communication, and Giving Feedback to Students and Residents. It is hoped that the residents who attend will acquire the skills to conduct similar workshops in their own residency programs.

Legislative Issues

Health Care Reform

Health care reform has certainly become the topic of the year. The two ORR Administrative Board meetings in February and June were spent discussing the AAMC's position regarding health care reform. The AAMC developed an Advisory Panel on Health Care, chaired by Bill Kerr, M.D. This panel created three position papers on health care reform.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMS

The preliminary programs for the 1993 AAMC Annual Meeting were mailed in late-July. If you have not received a program by August 3rd, please contact Michelle Keyes-Welch. The ORR program is scheduled for November 6-7, 1993. See you there!

These papers outlined the goals and principles which the AAMC believes any reform proposal should include. While all issues are important, of particular interest were those related to graduate medical education. Briefly, the recommendations include: creating incentives for career choices in specialties that meet national needs; stable and broad based support for graduate medical education; and appropriate supply and specialty mix of physicians. This would be accomplished by the development of a national all-payer fund for graduate medical education and the formation of a National Physician Resource Commission as a independent body to undertake planning for workforce needs; also included is a continued role for ACGME in accrediting programs solely on the basis of established education criteria; recognizing the total costs of graduate medical education; recognizing the need for transitional funds; and, continued financial support for graduate medical education.

After a great deal of discussion, debate, and revision, these papers were adopted by the AAMC Executive Council in June with modifications.

Stark Proposal

Brent Chism, Legislative Assistant to Pete Stark (13th District, California), spoke to the OSR and ORR Administrative Boards at the June meetings to introduce a new student loan proposal. Under the Stark Health Education Loan Program (HELP), a medical student would be able to borrow \$60,000 for tuition and educational expenses (including board exams and child care), and pay a supplemental 1% income tax until the age of 67. No

payments would be required during the first three years of residency. Alternatively a student could borrow \$120,000, and pay a supplemental 2% income tax until age 67.

The proposal is intended to be advantageous to students entering primary care by creating affordable payments for a longer period of time, freeing capitol early in one's career, and offers forgiveness of payments for practice in under-served communities. It also eliminates a layer of bureaucracy (bank charges) by operating via a trust fund. An insurance premium would be required to cover death or disability.

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