



Organization of Student Representatives

Greetings from Springfield and the land of sunny corn. It's time once again to energize your batteries and recapture some of the excitement with which you left Chicago.

Things at SIU have been running at full tilt. With an LCME site visit coming - everybody is running around trying to make sure all are basically happy. It will allow us to get some of our bigger projects into possible acceptance instead of the flat out rejection. Among some of the biggest accomplishments have been -

1. The institution of a centralized student govt. - rather than one of fractionated class executive committees. The fruition of a year and a half's efforts - but well worth it. We kicked off our initial meeting with a grand lunch - enticing enough to make even the most apathetic student sit up and take part.
2. Forming a day convention format program to teach medical economics and medical economic systems to students. It's planned for early September and covers DRGs, to medical education financing to industrial medicine to insurance/malpractice. Even threw in a party at the end. Right now we are negotiating for CME credit for residents and physicians. I hope it all works out.
3. And of course the implementation of GPEP - the above kind of fit in, but the curriculum is a whole other story - one that would take too long here. So just keep trying.

Well that's all the news I have from here. I have to go out and work off my surgical pallor. (I firmly believe surgery clerkships are designed for photophobes only). Anyway, what follows is completion of solicitations of 20 lucky souls. So sit back and take time to learn what some other OSRites are doing. See ya'll in Washington.

David Resch
Southern Illinois University

As usual, I've waited reasonably long to commit myself to a task. You're reading the product of many, many hours, days, weeks and even months of careful deliberation. I have been debating whether to write something serious and worthwhile or not. This is what's coming out.

Things in Rochester are o.k. They could be better. Spring was a real blessing after the long winter; the tremendous allergy I have developed is not. Since I'm quite an outdoorsman, I'm grateful for antihistamines and hydrocortisone.

At any rate, Yolanda and I have been rather quiet at Mayo since our meeting last March. We have preliminary suggestions based on the G.P.E.P. report with which we hope to effect a change in our school. Although Mayo has implemented, many years ago, several of the G.P.E.P. recommendations, we feel there's room for improvement. I just finished our first year's neurosciences course, and if I had things my way, all courses would be taught like that. I enjoyed the problem-solving approach of neuroscience, but am now back to sitting through hours of lectures.

The A.M.A.-M.S.S. sponsored a letter writing campaign led by David J. Brailer, shortly after our A.A.M.C. meeting in Chicago. I have tried to make students aware of it, and encouraged them to write stating their position with respect to the present Administration's doings. I hope all O.S.R. members are still encouraging their classmates to let their legislators know how they feel.

Minnesota has three medical schools, and in April we finally united through the A.M.A. One of our first tasks as a united force was to work with the Minnesota Medical Association to voice the concern of medical students about the money shortage. We are also working hard to have the medical students not only represented but also voting at the state medical meetings.

There is a real concern about financial aid for medical students among Minnesota's physicians. To help some, the Physician's Philanthropic Foundation of the M.M.A. has recently availed funds for loans. This is something to consider elsewhere if the need arises.

Mike Gonzalez-Campoy
Mayo Medical School

Greetings!

What a gorgeous spring! This weather is making it really hard for me to study. Anyone else having the same problem? Eek. There's so much to do (eek?). Finals, then Comps, then National Boards. I feel like my body is taking the form of my study chair--should look great in a swim suit this summer.

On the home front:

Heidi and I acted on Dr. Cooper's request to write the big minds in Washington regarding the possible freeze of Medicare's support of hospital expenses for medical education programs. Enclosed is a copy of the letter which was sent to Heckler,

Roper, Davis, Ohio Senators, Representatives, and I forgot someone (refer to Dr. Cooper's memo). It was a not-recommended masseform letter-type campaign, but given the situation at MCO, we figured something was better than nothing. At least it informed our students of what's looming on the horizon.

Heidi got her class organized to write Washington regarding the Student Aid issue. In addition, we invited the President of the Medical College to speak to the students about some of the issues with financial aid. For some reason, Dr. Ruppert carries a little more clout than lil' me. Anyway he is very direct and encouraged students to ask their parents to write too. This was OSR initiated, and I think it may have done some good.

The status of GPEP at MCO is disappointing. Dr. Wagner, the Associate Dean of Student Affairs, and an enthusiastic supporter of OSR, had been working on recruiting faculty to serve on Student-Faculty tasks forces to write recommendations for GPEP's application at MCO. There was only a 20% favorable reply (Yes, I'll serve on a task force). This is discouraging, and I'm not sure what our next move is. The biggest problem with faculty at MCO is that the numbers are small and they are all over-committed. We're thinking about our next move.

In the region:

I had hoped to be able to tell you where the regional meeting will be next year. In my last communication with Dr. Jack Snarr, the new GSA regional chair, a decision about having the meeting in Detroit was on hold. (Come on now--Detroit is not that bad. If things get slow, we can come down to Toledo. I've been wanting to show off my Iowa shell collection. It'll be great). Anyway, the other choices at that time were Minneapolis (my vote) and Indianapolis. I hope to know by the next newsletter.

I can tell you a little about the program for next year. I met with Dr. Snarr in Chicago after the regional meeting. (I stayed the whole week-my Spring Break). One weakness in the program which we hope to correct is the joint GSA-OSR session on Saturday. I don't think any of us would disagree that it was subpar. We are working on a format that will include more active participation and contributions by OSR. It's not that we've been too shy to contribute, but the format just didn't lend itself to that. Remember--try to make your reservations so you can stay for this session. I'll need you!

I have contacted Rev. Joy Skeel, R.N. who teaches our course in Ethics at MCO. Rev. Skeel travels to many med schools in the country as a consultant for establishing ethics in medical school curriculums. With so many schools represented at our regional meetings, Rev. Skeel is anxious to get input from the students view about how ethics are taught.

That's about it. If anyone has any ideas for the regional meeting please contact me. I love mail. A post card from some exotic place would be very nice. I'll be waiting.

Have a great summer. I start off with 3 months of medicine, then 3 months of surgery. Can't wait!

Take care y'all,

Joanne M. Fruth
Medical College of Ohio

Note:

A copy of a letter about Medicare which Joanne wrote is appended to the back of this Newsletter - don't forget to look at it. It's quite good.

Greetings from Wright State University, School of Medicine, and Dayton, Ohio. Much has been happening at our school since our trip to Chicago. Topics of

interest have been financial aid, the National Boards, our annual Spring Fling and, of course, GPEP and its implementation. We also have had a visit from the President of the American Medical Association, Dr. Joseph Boyles.

Concerning financial aid, our dean has asked that the committee on financial aid be reactivated in light of the current federal position on this issue. As OSR rep, I have been asked to serve on this committee as liaison between the student body and the committee. We are hoping to establish new and better criteria for the dispensing of financial aid dollars, and to explore (and discover) more effective ways of generating more financial support for students.

The second year students are anxiously preparing for National Boards. We are experimenting in a small way with review sessions that are designed and taught by students. So far so good but we will have to wait until after the boards to determine the effectiveness of this method.

On April 26 and 27, we held our annual Spring Fling. This is a time for students and faculty to interact in a nonacademic setting. The festivities were highlighted Friday evening (the 26th) with the annual talent show the likes of which you have never seen. Faculty spoofs and students' "faut pas" were the menu for the evening, not to mention such folk musical specials as "Music, Cookies and Sex". The main event for Saturday (the 27th) was the annual Round Robin Softball Tournament which pits the medical student classes against each other. The winner of the Round Robin takes on the faculty for our infamous Big John trophy in honor of our founding dean, John Beljair (a big man in his own right). This year's winners were the Class of 1988. We now know what the admissions criteria were for that class. A fun time was had by all.

On May 8, our school was visited by Dr. Joseph Boyles, President of the AMA. Dr. Boyles spoke to the student body.

His positive message to us was refreshing. While admitting that changes in the medical profession were imminent and unavoidable, his reassurance to us was that we had made the best of career decisions. He also expressed his dislike for those physicians who have nothing but negative comments about their profession and its plight.

Well that is it from here for now. Have a great summer. See y'all in October

Murray
Wright State University

Finals have been grinding me to a pulp, and reasonably little has been accomplished extracurricularly (including the prompt submission of this humble offering). As his last blast, Dan Sewell put together a symposium on animal research, and with substantial bullying of classmates and colleagues, we managed to get twelve people to show up for an hour-long presentation. "Better fewer, but better," as they say. The only other undertaking of note was Positive Reinforcement Morning," when, between lectures, I showered the class with candy bars, rewarding anyone who could affirm some action or way of thinking unrelated to medicine for which he/she wished to be positively reinforced. It was fun. Other than that, I don't have a dog (a source of lasting regret in my life), so no report on its state of health, and watch the clinical years approach with frightening vigor. They really plan to make a doctor out of me! Walk in the sun, my friends, next year in Washington.

Harry Carson
University of Iowa

Northwestern University coordinates the participation from almost every organization on campus via a body known as the Student Senate. This is to allow free and open discussion about any matter of interest to the students, while allowing the administration a group that pretty

much represents all the medical students and groups. As OSR reps, we have a lot of leeway on projects that interest us. John Goleas is currently setting up different groups of student senate members to informally collect information on specific issues...financial aid, student health, etc. Thus, if anybody wants to take action on an issue, he/she would have all the relevant information at his/her fingertips--names, phone numbers, procedures, etc. This will hopefully allow the experience of the upperclassmen, as well as OSR mailings, to be available for everybody.

The letter writing campaign so eloquently presented by Jeff Collyer of Kansas University was very successful. In fact, our Dean of Student Affairs told us that the University didn't support form letter campaigns, but since this was well run, he would defray the postage costs.

As for GPEP, the wheels of bureaucracy roll on. Northwestern has formed a steering committee with several subcommittees investigating how Northwestern could incorporate GPEP recommendations. Each subcommittee has a student representative and some are actively researching student opinions. John Goleas is on the Baccaloreate Education Committee.

Well, that's all the news from the windy city. Just remember, let's be careful out there!

Caters,

Balaji
Northwestern University

Hello Friends!

It seems as though it has been ages since Chicago. Since our return to the University of Minnesota - Minneapolis, June LaValeur-Randall and I have been busy with several projects. June has been working with our Medical Student Council to increase student awareness of

current legislative proposals regarding financial aid. Specifically, a questionnaire was used to gather data from the first and second year students regarding their present indebtedness, expected indebtedness and use of existing loan programs. The information gathered is being compiled and will be presented to our state legislators this summer. June and I also plan to meet with our state health aides this summer to discuss the impact of proposed budget cuts on the Univ. of Minn. - Mpls. medical students.

We also organized a letter-writing session for the first and second year students. Paper, pencils, stamps and an "encouraging environment" were provided...no doughnuts unfortunately! The effort was quite successful resulting in approximately 150 letters being mailed to our legislators in Washington. This fall June and I plan to "drop in" on our legislators in Washington while we are there for the National AAMC-OSR Convention.

More recently, I have been working with our year two coordinators and educational consultants to implement some of the GPEP recommendations in our pharmacology curriculum. At present, our pathophysiology/pathology is based on small group case studies and discussions with lectures being used to highlight important material and partially prepare us for the small group discussions. In view of complaints regarding our present pharmacology curriculum, we are attempting to extend this approach to our pharmacology course by developing more useful course objectives and implementing a modified small-group case study approach.

I hope you all are having a "happy" rewarding year and hope to see you in Washington. If you ever need a place to stay in Mpls. or advice/information regarding Mpls. (city and/or medical school), do not hesitate to give me a call.

Julie K. Drier
Univ. of Minn. - Mpls.

June 4, 1985

Dear Representative Kaptur,

I am aware that that government action may soon change the organization and financing of graduate medical education as part of a movement to contain health-care costs. Because graduate medical-education programs are funded predominately by hospital revenue, they are immediately vulnerable to changes in the flow of funds to teaching hospitals. As pressures grow to control Medicare expenditures, it seems likely that these educational costs will come under attack as an inappropriate expense for the program.

As a medical student, I feel that it is inappropriate to change Medicare's long-standing support of hospital expenses for medical education programs. After medical school, I will continue with four to six years of training for which I need adequate compensation particularly since the average medical student graduates with a debt of \$40,000.00. I feel that this compensation and my choice of residency program may be jeopardized if the present draft regulations circulating within HHS are implemented.

As a long-term health benefits program, Medicare has a responsibility to help train health professionals who serve its present and future beneficiaries. I would like to know your stand on this issue and would appreciate your opposition to legislation regarding this potential change in policy.

Sincerely yours,