

## **First Year Course Directors Committee (CD1) 2001-02 Annual Report**

**Purpose:** To craft a better first year curriculum

**Chairs:** Marco Aleman, M.D. & Stephen Chaney, Ph.D.

**Members:** Marco Alemán, Keith Burridge, Janne Cannon, Stephen Chaney, Jim Evans, Paul Farel, Michelle Forcier, Noelle Granger, Bill Koch, Lee McIlwain, Glenn Matsushima, John Newbold, Kathy Sulik, Barry Saunders

**Dates:** 8/10/01, 9/14/01, 10/12/01, 11/9/01, 12/14/01, 1/14/02, 2/8/02, 3/8/02, 4/12/02, 5/10/02, 6/14/02

### **Topic #1: Integration**

**Progress:** Medicine and Society referenced the Diabetes PBL and thus integrated with Biochemistry and ICM. They also worked with ICM to create exercises analyzing organizational and financial dimensions of community practices and to use the ICM clinical experiences to create an analytic essay.

Biochemistry integrated with Cell Biology, Medical Computing, ICM, Medicine and Society. Anatomy, renamed Human Anatomy and Embryology, will include the entire prior Embryology course and will integrate these lectures into the anatomy sessions. Medical Physiology and Biochemistry collaborated to reduce redundancy with regards to the topics “related membrane excitability and neuromuscular transmission” and treatment of “a membrane transport mechanism-facilitated diffusion”. Histology continued to integrate with Anatomy, Immunology and Introduction to Pathology. The ICM course continued to extend its integration with other courses: Biochemistry and the Problem based cases, Medicine and Society, Anatomy and the surface anatomy laboratories.

**Plans:** Medicine and Society will continue coordinating with Biochemistry problem based cases (PBC), will move death/dying session to the fall to coordinate with students’ experiences in the anatomy lab. Biochemistry plans to integrate more PBCs with Molecular Biology and Genetics and will continue to indicate content linkages to other courses in the syllabus and in case conference write-ups. Cell Biology is investigating the integration with Medical Computing by having the students use a cell biology topic as their assignment in web and literature searches, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry. Because of a significant reduction in course hours for 2003-3, Histology’s ability to integrate will be reduced. ICM will continue to be an integral member of the annual Problem based case, which integrates with biochemistry, molecular biology, and prevention, as well as the clinical specialties of surgery and radiation oncology.

### **Topic #2: Increase in small group / active learning opportunities**

**Process:** Medicine and Society utilizes small group learning throughout their course. Biochemistry has increased their small group learning from 12.2% to 27.4% of contact hours. Medical Physiology continues to use small-group sessions, which have

## **First Year Course Directors Committee (CD1) 2001-02 Annual Report**

received the best evaluations of the course. Histology continued to be conducted in smaller-groups in the laboratories. ICM teaches all of its sessions in small-group format, using interactive methodology. This year, simulated patients, videotaped clinical interviews and oral presentations were added to the syllabus.

### **Plans:**

#### **Topic #3: Utilization of New Technologies**

**Process:** Medicine and Society has maintained a database of syllabus and teaching resources. Biochemistry converted to the AIMS system for exams, PowerPoint presentations for their lectures, linked syllabus and case conferences to online resources whenever possible, used videotaped interviews (created by ICM) and simulated patients (provided by OED) for PBCs. Medical Physiology has converted all of their lectures to PowerPoint. Histology offered web-based (UNC and non-UNC produced) materials, which prompted spirited discussions in the laboratories. ICM placed all of its videotaped clinical exams and patient interviews on an electronic library, making it easier for studying and teaching.

**Plans:** Medicine and Society lack the sufficient number of rooms for small group discussion, most of which are inadequately set up for internet or A/V connectivity. Anatomy will utilize their FIPSE grant to introduce, in 2002, the online program of supplemental materials: detailed videos of the steps for each dissection, stacked sectional images from the Visible Human Project, three dimensional reconstructions and imaging. In 2002, the back and upper limb will be introduced; thorax, abdomen and pelvis in 2003, and head and neck in 2004.

Medical Physiology will be using .pdf files for next year, in an effort to improve efficiency of paper and electronic syllabus material. ICM will create a web-based teaching site and forum, using an OIS/ETG mini grant, which will allow for a greater standardization of activities and will foster interaction amongst students during their community weeks.

#### **Topic #4: Correlation with other / clinical courses and objectives**

**Process:** Medicine and Society involves faculty from other clinical disciplines (Pediatrics, Emergency Medicine, Medicine and Family Medicine) and other courses (Clinical Epidemiology, ICM, Special Topics).

Biochemistry has added clinical correlations for each syllabus section, instituted review of syllabus objectives and content by the clinical faculty and has required clinical faculty as coreceptors for two of their PBCs.

Anatomy has added five clinical correlates lectures, to be provided by faculty members of the Department of Surgery and which will add to the ENT clinical correlates lectures. Continued their collaboration with members of the Departments of Orthopedics, ENT, Radiology, Pathology and with the tutors from the ICM course.

## **First Year Course Directors Committee (CD1) 2001-02 Annual Report**

Medical Physiology continued to have guest lecturers: surgery faculty for hemorrhagic shock and medicine faculty for respiratory failure, respectively.

Histology continued to correlate their course with second and third year courses with the assistance of clinical faculty.

ICM continued to interact with faculty from the departments of Family Medicine, Pediatrics, Medicine and Society, and the Program on Aging, amongst others, during their leadership of the "Special Topics" sessions. They also included the medical school objectives of teaching professionalism, role of the physician in the community and self-directed learning in their syllabus.

**Plans:** Medicine and Society will continue to meet yearly with the course director's form ICM and Clinical Epi to foster integration and reduce redundancies in the curriculum. Medical Physiology has approached the department chairs of surgery and medicine in an effort to increase collaboration in the future year(s). Because of the upcoming reduction in teaching time for Histology, fewer opportunities may exist for clinical correlation.

### **Topic #5: Reduction / Reorganization of course content**

**Process:** The committee prepared a document that highlighted the various areas of overlap in the curriculum, illustrating the various potential avenues for integration and reduction of redundant material in the curriculum. This was well received by the members of the committee.

Medicine and Society faculty members are working on a new edition of the course text, *Social Medicine Reader*. Biochemistry has met with other course directors and lecturers to identify and eliminate redundancies on material presented. Anatomy has eliminated the lengthy clinical comments at the end of each of their labs, streamlined the syllabus, reduced the number of clinical correlates per lab and increased the number of thorax dissections by one session while reducing that of upper limbs by one. ICM met with several other course directors to reduce redundancy and streamline the syllabus.

**Plans:** Medicine and Society plan on continuing their semiannual student focus groups to obtain feedback regarding the syllabus. Biochemistry is working to reduce the non-clinically relevant information on the syllabus. ICM will provide a full-text syllabus on line and a smaller, reduced version on paper.