

The OSU Family Physician

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Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine

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...a newsletter published by the Department of Family Medicine for clinicians, teachers, and researchers in family medicine

OSU Initiates Family Medicine Residency In Durant



Dr. Terry Lee examines a patient with Dr. Lynn Elethorp, one of the first residents selected for the program.

Always a champion of rural healthcare in Oklahoma, the OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine is extending its reach even further into the rural community. July 1, the Tulsa-based medical school launched a two-year family medicine residency program at Medical Center of Southeastern Oklahoma.

According to the College's Associate Dean for Clinical Education, **Larry Cherry, D.O.**, the residency program is designed to recruit, train and maintain quality physicians in underserved areas of Oklahoma. "For many years our graduate physicians were trained in large cities and returned to all parts of the state, but we've had dreams of recruiting and training physicians specifically to meet rural manpower needs. This is the first de-centralized family medicine residency program initiated and sponsored by the university. The first of many, I hope." Cherry says the program benefits the community as well as the graduate physicians.

Terry Lee, D.O. is director of the Medical Center of Southeastern Oklahoma residency program in Durant. He says the program provides family medicine physicians skills that are meaningful, keeping up with the times. "I think it encourages instructors and program directors to expand their knowledge base, which enhances opportunities for residents. Long-distance learning through communication technologies like telemedicine will be integral to the program," Lee says. "There is also a business emphasis to give residents competence about setting up and running a medical office."

-Lisa Austerman

For more information about the Durant residency program, please call (580) 924-3400.

Fall Faculty Development Focus: Conducting Clinical Research

Wednesday, October 14th marked the first workshop in an ongoing faculty development series, entitled "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Research, but Were Afraid to Ask: A Practical Way to Increase Your Scholarly Productivity." The workshop series is designed to assist interested physicians, residents and students with scholarly activities, to help them negotiate the recent international movement toward evidence-based medicine, and to introduce them to the fascinating experience of clinical research.

The workshop series is held biweekly on the OSU COM Campus in Tulsa. Each session is being videotaped and is available through the Department of Family Medicine. Beginning early next year, the workshop series will also be posted on the Research section of the Family Medicine web page.

Each workshop builds upon the one before, and is designed to provide each individual with feedback on his/her particular project. The workshop series will cover all aspects of the conduct of research, including reading the medical literature, choosing one's research design and statistical tools, and preparation of the manuscript for publication. **Dr. Shannon Turner**, the workshop series coordinator, provides faculty with an active forum for expressing ideas, as well as concerns and doubts about research activities, and gaining experience with techniques that will help protect time for scholarly activities. Given that the American Osteopathic Association has been actively seeking research proposals from osteopathic physicians to address some of osteopathy's most

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Message from the Chairman



Charles Henley, D.O., M.P.H.

I am pleased to present the inaugural issue of "The OSU Family Physician." Our purpose in creating this newsletter is to provide a forum for information, education, and discussion about events important to the department of family medicine at OSU-COM. We hope to share our newsletter with all the D.O.'s in Oklahoma who are interested in primary care, but specifically those of you who share in the task of educating our students and residents, and have an interest in the activities of the department. We would appreciate your feedback as well as your support. If there are specific issues that you would like to know more about, or see presented in the newsletter, please let us know. If there are things that you would like to contribute to the newsletter, we would entertain that as well. The newsletter will promote academic and informational issues that we hope will be useful to our full time and clinical faculty. Again, your feedback and contributions are both welcome and encouraged, as we would like this to be your newsletter. Welcome!

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Fall Faculty Development Focus: Conducting Clinical Research

pressing questions (e.g., how do we quantify the effects of OMT and then educate the public about its effectiveness?), one of the workshops will provide techniques for writing competitive and fundable grant proposals. There are even sessions regarding such practical issues as supervision of project staff, and time and resource management for practitioners and/or educators wanting to design research projects in their already busy practices and educational situations.

For further information on these workshops, please contact Shannon M. Turner, Ph.D., Research Scientist in the Department of Family Medicine, at (918) 561-8289.

Practice-Based Research Project on OMT in Full Swing

With the help of Dr. Charles Henley, Dr. Richard Cooper, Dr. Shannon Turner, research nurse Nancy Olsen, and 2nd year medical student, Melinda Dandridge, Dr. Miriam Mills is making progress on her AOA-funded grant to study the effect of cranial osteopathic manipulation on chronic otitis media in young children. The trial is the first randomized investigation of its kind, and is already laying the groundwork for similar investigations around the United States. The team headed to the **AOA Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, October 5-8** to present preliminary pilot data, train some national collaborators and gather relevant research. The meeting was helpful in working out some of the details necessary to make the investigation as successful and useful as possible.

Interested in Federal Research/Education Funding?

Health Professions
Education Consolidation
Act of 1998 Approved by
Congress

A recent memorandum issued by the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Office of Government Relations reported that after 2 years of "grassroots" effort, the 105th Congress approved the Health Professions Education Consolidation Act of 1998. According to Michael Dyer, Vice President for Government Relations, the bill "establishes a number of funding priorities which are advantageous to our institutions" (page 1). These appear under 5 categories: Underserved Minority Health Professions Grant Program; Family Medicine, General Internal Medicine, General Pediatrics, Physician Assistants and General Dentistry/Pediatric Dentistry; Interdisciplinary Community-Based Linkages; Health Professions Workforce Information and Analysis; and Public Health Workforce Development. Other smaller provisions include public health reauthorizations for the Office of Minority Health; Programs regarding Birth Defects; State Offices of Rural Health; the Alzheimers' Demonstration Project; Project Grants for Immunization Services; and Community Programs on Domestic Violence. Two other programs have been added: Centers for Disease Control Vaccine Purchase Authority and Emergency Medical Services for Children Program. All of these programs are seen as funding priorities from now on, and bode well for developing programs in the osteopathic community.

To Teach or Not to Teach

How Teaching Medical Students Affects Your Practice

When considering clinical teaching, many practitioners report that the potential challenges are the first things to come to mind. Time pressures, the unpredictability of cases, and balancing teaching responsibilities with the provision of excellent care may all be concerns for the busy practitioner.

However, clinical teaching and excellent patient care don't have to be mutually exclusive. In fact, numerous studies have shown that they are quite complementary. In one study of preceptors,¹ 96% of those surveyed reported either an increase or no change in patient satisfaction with the presence of students. Sixty-six percent felt that precepting increased their review of the basics of clinical medicine, and 60% reported an increase in patient education when a student was present. Another study of preceptors² showed that patient interviews conducted by students revealed more information for the physicians and that patients reacted positively to interactions with students. Yet another survey showed that physicians did not perceive losses of time or money because of precepting.³

Even if you're convinced that students can benefit your practice, you may still be wondering how to find time to teach. This article is the first in a series on Clinical Teaching Strategies. Future articles will focus on topics such as "Incorporating Teaching into Your Busy Practice," "What Makes a Good Teacher," and "Effective Student Evaluation and Feedback."

While the clinical rewards of teaching are evident, most preceptors believe that the positive experience and personal satisfaction of teaching future physicians is the greatest reward. Preceptors have unique opportunities to show students the rewards of family practice, promote the future of the medical profession, and share their expertise with bright, energetic students.

References

1. Grayson MS, et al. "Benefits and Costs to Community-Based Teaching," *J Gen Intern Med*, 485-488.
2. Usatine RP, et al. "Reactions of Family Medicine Community Preceptors to Teaching Medical Students," *FamMed*, 1995;27:566-70.
3. Foley R, et al. "Recruiting and Retaining Volunteer Community Preceptors," *Acad Med*, 1996;71(5):460-463.

For more information on clinical teaching opportunities and resources, please contact Teresa Cardador, M.P.H., Director of Educational Programs in Family Medicine at 918-699-8612.

Innovative Training Project Underway in Sites Throughout Oklahoma

The Department of Family Medicine has been awarded a grant from the Bureau of Health Professions in the amount of \$239,786 over three years to develop and implement a rural, ambulatory family medicine curriculum for third year medical students. This project, the Rural Ambulatory Care Experience (RACE), is currently in its second year and is an expansion of an existing rural family medicine rotation. The RACE project will be implemented through a partnership between the Department of Family Medicine, the Area Health Education Centers (AHEC), and rural family physician educators.

The project utilizes a regional management model for training, with five rural training "hubsites" throughout the state and several "satellite" sites within a 30 mile radius of the hubsites. The structured curriculum consists of three main components: clinical

experiences in a rural ambulatory setting, weekly didactic sessions led by the hubsite physician coordinator, and a community project.

Year one of the project was devoted to planning and site development. Students began rotating in RACE communities in year two of the project, beginning in October 1998.

The Principle Investigator for this grant is **Steve Eddy, D.O.** For more information about the project, contact **Karen Sanders, M.S.**, RACE Project Manager at (918) 599-9405.



Dr. Ray Stowers leads a didactic session on "Recognizing Signs and Symptoms of Drug Abuse". Medical students and residents attend the session at the rural training hubsite in Enid.

The OSU Family Physician newsletter is published by the Department of Family Medicine at the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine. We welcome your ideas for articles and features.

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Upcoming Events...

- Oklahoma Osteopathic Association Annual Convention
April 22-25, 1999, Shangri-La Resort, Afton, OK
- American Academy of Osteopathy 1999 Convocation: Bridging the Gap
March 24-28, 1999, St. Louis, MO
- Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Faculty Development Series
April 10, 1999, Kansas City, MO

*Interested in Finding Out More About Some of The Issues in This Edition?
Check out these ON-LINE RESOURCES...*

<http://osu.com.okstate.edu/> OSU COM

<http://www.usalert.com/htdoc/usoa/frid/any/proc/ang/aoa10139801.htm>
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