

AHME News

Association for Hospital Medical Education

Fall 1998

President's Message



Kimball Mohn, M.D.

New Orleans is a particularly strange setting on Halloween. It seemed a fitting locale for the recent AHME meeting; after all, much of what we encounter in med-

ical education these days is somewhat unsettling.

- I am pleased to report that AHME members in attendance did not allow themselves to be distracted by the sights and sounds of New Orleans. They remained focused on the excellent educational programming available and on conducting the business of the organization. Consequently, it was a very productive session.
- The second edition of the Guide to Graduate Medical Education is now in print. Ellen Cosgrove, Bonnie Kaido, Bob Sutton, and Maryanne Shanahan unveiled it at the meeting to the delight of all, and the Board of Directors formally recognized their exceptional contribution in bringing this project to life. Complementary copies will be distributed to members upon receipt of their dues for the coming year (renewal notices are being mailed). Additional copies can be ordered through the AHME National Office.
- Dennis Smeage, Steve Minnick, and I had the opportunity to meet with representatives of the Association of Osteopathic Directors and Medical Educators (AODME) and the American Osteopathic Healthcare Association (AOHA) while in New Orleans. This meeting followed a period in which we exchanged correspon-

dence and information regarding our organization with Jim Preston (President, AODME) and David Kushner (President and CEO, AOHA). A consensus has emerged that we will face many of the same challenges as we go forward. While the organizations wish to remain independent, it is anticipated that we could partner in educational programming that would benefit our memberships. Another meeting is planned for the early part of 1999 to explore this collaboration further.

AHME is especially grateful to Gordon Spink, Gary Moorman, and Gary Willyerd for the important role they played in making this meeting possible.

- The Finance Committee, under the leadership of Secretary-Treasurer Paul Romanelli, has selected an investment advisor for the organization. In the next several months, an investment policy for our reserves will be formulated and implemented.
- The Program Committee, led by Margie Kleppick, held a program planning retreat in Pittsburgh on September 19 to develop plans for the Spring Institute. The Committee continued to refine the program while in New Orleans and should be ready to distribute registration materials in early January. Take a moment now to mark your calendars for May 12-15, 1999, as I'm sure you'll want to join us on Hilton Head for our annual update on medical education.

AHME is blessed with highly effective leadership for each of its councils and committees. In the next issue of AHME News, I plan to celebrate more of their accomplishments in my column. Until then, please feel free to contact me if you have any comments, concerns, or suggestions regarding our organization. You may reach me in a number of ways: MAIL - Kimball

Mohn, M.D., Department of Medicine, Mercy Hospital, 1400 Locust Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219; FAX - (412) 232-5689; E-MAIL - kmohn@mercy.pmhs.org; or PHONE - (412) 232-8080. I hope to see you in May!

Second Edition of Guide to Graduate Medical Education Published

Guide II is here! Member copies will be sent as dues renewals are received—the faster you renew, the faster you'll receive Guide II. Advance orders have been filled.

Thanks to all the Guide II authors, the members of the Guide II Committee and Editorial Board, and our editor, Maryanne Shanahan of MSI New York. As a result of their untiring efforts, our second edition of the Guide to Graduate Medical Education is an excellent publication that should be a standard work in the reference library of anyone involved with graduate medical education. Also, thanks to the AHME Executive Committee and Board of Directors for their support during the past 18 months. With nearly 400 pages and 20 chapters, Guide II is a hit!

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Nominating Committee

By Thomas C. Gentile, Jr., Chair

The Nominating Committee met on Friday, October 30, 1998 in New Orleans and reviewed the candidates for the upcoming election. Even though the committee had sent out with the last newsletter a request for candidates, none were received. The committee then reviewed the current leadership roster and selected a number of candidates who met the criteria for nomination for President-Elect, Treasurer, and Member-at-Large. The committee will call these candidates to verify that they are willing to run for office. The committee will present a slate for the membership to vote on after January 1999.

The committee also reviewed the upcoming regional chair elections. Louis Leff, M.D. suggested that we send a request to each member of the region for nominations. He further suggested that this request contain a list of all members in the region and the criteria for the chair position. The AHME office will send this information out in December or January.

Membership Committee

By Bonnell D. Kaido, Chair

It's time for dues renewal! Invoices are being mailed from AHME's National Headquarters. Please take a careful look and correct as appropriate to help us update our database. Once we receive your membership dues, you'll receive a complimentary copy of the Guide to Graduate Medical Education, Second Edition. The Guide is well worth the cost of membership, with chapters including need-to-know information about accreditation, financing, evaluation, and more.

If you believe there's a mistake in your membership account, please contact Dennis Smeage, Executive Director, immediately. Every effort is currently being made to ensure accuracy. This is especially important because a number of surveys will use the database addresses in the coming months.

Renew your valuable AHME membership now so that you qualify for the member rate at the 1999 Spring Institute in Hilton Head!

By John Carey

Happy Fall from your happy editor in the beautiful State of Alabama! Isn't this just a glorious time of year? The weather is cooling, the trees are changing, or maybe already have changed in some parts of the country, and we are quickly approaching the holiday season. I think most people enjoy this time of the year, except for perhaps our beach, lake and summer sweat-a-holics. The holidays are especially fun, as most people seem to be in a happy mood as the excitement of the season draws near.

Excitement, happiness, joy, family, friends—these are just a few key words that are integral to the holiday season. One of the great robbers that prevent these key items from becoming reality is anxiety and stress. I realize we are all under an inordinate amount of work and time pressure that tends to dilute our joy and expectations at the expense of personal well being, our family and our friends. I encourage all of us to step back for a moment and make a careful examination of ourselves and our situations and try to gain a true perspective of what is really important in our life.

Take a deep breath and make time for yourself, your family and your friends—the work will not go away, I promise. The work will still be there tomorrow, but once the day, season, and the holidays are gone we won't have another chance to get it right until next year. I don't need to remind you that next year you, your family, your friends will be a year older, and you don't want to have missed the most precious opportunity to really experience the joy of the season. I encourage us all to take a look. Make a few small changes or, in the case of some, major changes and enjoy the beauty of life. Almost makes you want to break out in song, doesn't it? (A major Broadway production number, not just a little tune). "Happy Holidays, Happy Holidays." Get the idea?

I made it back from the AAMC/AHME Fall Meeting in New Orleans safe and sound. Boy, being in New Orleans over Halloween was a trip. Got to see some sights as well, although there wasn't time to see much of the city (ha, ha, ha). Perhaps some of the sights I saw on Halloween in New Orleans were part of the sights of the city—I'm not quite sure. All I can say is—interesting and far out!

Although the program for us at the fall meeting was not nearly as substantial as what you can expect at the 1999 AHME

Spring Educational Institute to be held in Hilton Head, South Carolina, remember that we share this time with our colleagues from the AAMC. There is always more available at AAMC than you can avail yourself of (in fact there is so much it gives me a headache), so it's okay for AHME not to have a jam-packed program. I can assure all of you, your AHME Committees and Board were busy and hard at work. Much work was being done in preparation for the Spring Institute. The next issue of AHME News will begin to present for you more tangible information pertaining to the Spring meeting, so be watching and waiting.

While in New Orleans, I received my copy of the new Guide to Graduate Medical Education. What a wonderful and useful tool for those of us involved in the daily work of GME. When you get your copy, I encourage you to take the time and become familiar with the contents. Much work by many people has gone into preparing a useful instrument for us to have at our fingertips.

I wish to extend my appreciation for all of the time and expertise the contributors willingly gave to make this possible for us. I would also like to send a special word of thanks to the members who spearheaded this project to completion. The time and effort put in most certainly was of enormous proportions (and this done in addition to their regular jobs).

Our sincere thanks to Ellen Cosgrove, Bonnie Kaido, Bob Sutton and to the editor Maryanne Shanahan. If you want to know what makes AHME strong and such a beneficial organization to belong to, it is because of the dedication of the membership. This project is just an example of what occurs on a daily basis by the project groups, the committees and the Board. It is such fun to be part of an organization where results are so apparent.

Well, y'all, it's time to put down the pen and go to work. Times are busy, but I will take the time for introspection as I encouraged us all to do earlier in my remarks. I do want to enjoy the beauty of the season and I want you to enjoy it as well. So, this is john.carey@bhsala.com signing off for now, and since this is in written medium, I'm just going to stop. ENTER. (The ENTER is computer lingo, and on my PC it means "send.") Betcha that makes Dr. Louis Leff proud—I'm making such progress. Happy Holidays to all of you.

By Louis Leff, MD, FACP

Our Internet web site at <http://ahme.med.edu> holds detailed information about our organization, its mission, governance, and councils. It has become a popular source of information about our organization, and we are getting thousands of hits each month. Listserv sign-ups continue to grow, and the Transitional Year Program Directory on line has become a "hit" with students!

An exciting new feature is the Classifieds section. It is a publicly viewable database of job postings in the field of medical education. Only AHME members can submit postings through the private AHME web pages, but the rest of the world can view them once reviewed and posted.

As noted, there are both public and private pages at our site; the public ones may be viewed by anyone with Internet access. Our private pages include the on-line member email directory, the Congressional Record, the AHME News, and more. These pages can only be accessed by username and password.

If you do not yet have an AHME username and password, just visit the Members Area of our web site to set these up. All you will need is your AHME membership number found on the mailing label of your copy of AHME News. Armed with this number, you can specify your own username and password, and gain instant access to our private area. To set your username and password, go to the Members Area and select the second option, "Specify a username." Follow the directions on the screen, and then return to the main members area and choose "Enter the Members Area." Then, you're in.

As you specify your username and password, you will be given the opportunity to join the AHME Listserv email group. Our mailing listserv helps automate communications within the AHME/Internet community. With the listserv, an AHME member can send a single email message that will be forwarded to each person who subscribes to the list. This mechanism has been a standard tool on the Internet for many

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Call for CTYPD Nominations

By David Haigler Jr., M.D., Chair,
CTYPD Nominating Committee

The Council of Transitional Year Program Directors (CTYPD) will conduct elections in 1999. At that time, CTYPD will select a Chair-Elect, a Secretary and one At-Large Member of the Executive Committee. Those elected will serve two-year terms, beginning at the AHME Spring Institute. Nominees must be members of CTYPD. In addition, they

must be prepared to attend both the fall and spring meetings during their terms of office and must be willing to devote time to serving CTYPD.

The Nominating Committee solicits suggestions from CTYPD members for qualified candidates for the above positions. Your recommendations are extremely important to the election process and will be highly valued. Names may be submitted by e-mail to haiglerd@mail.caraway.com or they may be forwarded to David

Haigler, M.D., Vice President-Academic Affairs, Caraway Methodist Medical Center, 1600 Caraway Boulevard, Birmingham, AL 35234. Additionally, suggestions may be communicated to Dr. Haigler by telephone at (205) 502-6358 or by facsimile at (205) 502-5613. The Nominating Committee will carefully review all potential candidates, in order to advance a slate of nominees that ensures capable leadership, as well as geographic distribution and diversity.

COMEC on the Delta

By Ernest Hammel, Ph.D., Chair

After five days in New Orleans at the AHME and AAMC fall meeting, it's good to be back and get caught up. The meetings stimulated and offered many ideas for dealing with anticipated economic political changes that may affect medical education. Some who attended were clearly depressed; others saw the situation as opportunity. Our discussions in COMEC leaned toward building opportunity. The following only highlight our activities. As usual, there just didn't seem to be enough time to get everything done.

New Directors at Large Elected

The council held its first election to select Directors at Large to serve on the Executive Committee. The new directors announced in the membership meeting are Bob Carter, Jeff Benseler, Karen Goodman, and Sheila Shiel.

Program Planned for Spring Institute

Mike Grossman and his program committee have been working hard on the COMEC program for the AHME Spring Institute during the week of May 15. The central theme is "An Updated Look at the Anatomy and Physiology of Consortia." The following topics will be addressed under this theme:

- A consortium model of resident evaluation
- Addressing community health needs through consortia
- Anticipating changes in GME financing—the consortium solution

Government Affairs Committee Working on HCFA Position Paper

Mike Adelman and the COMEC Government Affairs Committee are working on a two-page position paper which will be forwarded to the Health Care

Finance Administration. The paper anticipates the development of rules for funding consortium development projects. The paper will describe the prevailing characteristics of consortia, quality measures, and resident payment. The committee is also seeking an opportunity to meet with HCFA officials.

Cracker Barrel

At the fall meeting we continued our ongoing discussions about organization building. Two of the most challenging issues to emerge from these discussions are balancing power and influence among consortium actors and developing group cohesiveness among the consortium participants. Do we need a chat room?

In Closing

We are trying to build COMEC membership. Please let the AHME office know of your intentions to join, and please pay those council dues. We'll see you in Hilton Head.

Editor Position

Journal of Continuing Education in the Health Professions (JCEHP)

The Administrative Board of the Journal of Continuing Education in the Health Professions (JCEHP) has appointed a Search Committee to seek a replacement for Dr. R. Fox as Editor of JCEHP. Dr. Fox has advised the Board of his wish to retire at the end of 1999, so the Search Committee is seeking applications. The job description is as follows:

Primary Responsibilities:

- Establish in consultation with the Administrative Board and the Editorial Board, a vision for and the editorial direction and content of the Journal.
- Solicit and select appropriate articles, reviews, editorials, and special interest items that reflect the interests and concerns of the profession.

- Establish an editorial board and administer a process for blind peer review of research submissions.
- Develop and guide a staff to assist with solicitation and production of articles and editorial materials.
- Review and respond, as appropriate, to letters to the editor.
- Coordinate with the publisher/managing editor the content for each issue and maintain production deadlines.
- Assemble and fact-check all copy before sending to the managing editor.
- Proofread and approve final copy.

Qualifications:

- Must be able to devote 25 percent of time to editorial duties.
- Is an active member of the Alliance or the SACME, or AHME.
- Is recognized as a leader in scholarship in the continuing health education profession and has a record of publication in JCEHP.
- Prior experience on an editorial board is preferred.

If interested, please contact John Parboosingh, Director, Professional Development, The Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada, 774 Echo Drive, Ottawa, ON K1S 5N8. Telephone (613) 730-6243 or (800) 461-9598. Fax (613) 730-0500. Internet Address: john.parboosingh@rcpsc.edu

AHME Program Committee

By Margie Kleppick, Chair

This program committee report comes to you from a tired but proud program committee chair who wants to provide you with information regarding the AHME Spring Institute and the work of the program committee without boring you to tears.

If all you want from this article is the date, time and place of the 1999 Spring Institute, here it is:

May 12-15, 1999
Crowne Plaza Resort
Hilton Head Island, South Carolina
Program Begins With
Newcomers' Lunch on May 12, 1999 at 11:00 a.m.
And Ends with the Final Session "GME Financing"
On Saturday, May 15, 1999 at 5:00 p.m.

The "Save the Date" Flyer is in the mail and covers all of the highlights of the program. The Program Brochure will be mailed during the first week of January 1999 and will provide you with all of the details of the program. In addition, the complete program will be on the AHME web site, along with a registration form. You can print a copy of the form, fill it out, and either fax it to AHME Headquarters with your credit card information or mail it with a check.

If you are interested in some of the other activities of the program committee and the Spring Institute – read on.

The program committee met on September 19, 1998, in Pittsburgh to review the needs of the membership and to develop a program for Spring 1999. The 1998 program evaluations were reviewed, and I am happy to say that according to the evaluations, the 1998 Spring Institute was a success.

Gary Smith compiled a report identifying the needs of the members from every available needs assessment tool we have. Thank you, Gary, for a job well done.

With this Program Curriculum Report, the Program Committee developed the 1999 Spring Institute. I am happy to report that we were able to provide a session for every need and again are able to give the members exactly what they are asking for.

On October 30, 1999 in New Orleans, the committee met again to finalize the 1999 Spring Institute. The program includes 34 educational sessions, four plenary sessions, 12 seminars, and 17 workshops.

- The Newcomers Lunch will be held from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- A Networking Lunch is scheduled for Friday, May 14, from 12-1:30 p.m.
- There will be a welcome reception on Wednesday, May 12, from 6-8 p.m. and another reception on Friday, May 14, from 6-8 p.m.

The program schedule is designed to provide quality educational sessions as well as dedicated time for networking and socializing with your colleagues. The AHME committee and council meetings will not be scheduled during the educational session time slots.

And, yes, we have filled the time slots with educational sessions and did not designate a "free time" period. However, we did plan the program so that you will be able to create your own free time depending on your interests.

Putting together a program of this size and quality takes a tremendous amount of time and energy from a team of dedicated, enthusiastic professionals! As chair of this dynamic committee, I would like to thank each one of them for the terrific program that they have developed and their never-ending support and loyalty to one another.

This year, we have placed added emphasis on obtaining handouts from speakers early enough to include them in the program binder that we all receive at registration. In order to do this, the session coordinators will discuss this with each speaker, and AHME headquarters will be sending letters to each speaker with this information along with a checklist for information needed. Speakers will be asked to limit their handouts to six pages and to refer participants to the Internet and/or publications for additional information.

In an attempt to solicit involvement of AHME members other than program committee members, who would be interested in participating in the Spring Institute, we have selected moderators from the AHME membership as often as possible. If anyone is interested in moderating a session, please let me know.

Another project taken on by the program committee is solicitation of commercial support for the Spring Institute. If you know of anyone interested in providing an educational grant for the Spring Institute, please call me at (412) 243-2021.

That's all for now. John Carey will be providing you with highlights of the Fall Program held in New Orleans, and everything else is just details and busy work for the committee.

I hope to see you in Hilton Head, and I welcome any comments or suggestions you have regarding the program.

Accreditation and Educational Standards Committee

By Thomas C. Gentile, Jr., Chair

The committee reviewed the recent change in meeting format for the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). It was recommended that AHME continue to send a representative to this meeting since it offers a great deal of information for our membership. Thomas Gentile, who is the current representative, indicated that the

ACGME web site is now operating and it is a great information resource for DMEs and program directors.

The ACGME is also considering outcome assessment as an educational tool and as a means to qualify resident competence. David Leach, M.D., Executive Director, ACGME, has developed a task force to explore the opportunities.

The Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) has proposed new essentials. AHME has reviewed the proposed essentials and has recommended to the ACCME that we support the revisions.

Medical Education: The Minneapolis-Moldova Partnership

By Willie R. Brazil

In 1993, the American International Health Alliance (AIHA) established a medical partnership between Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC) in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and City Emergency Hospital of Chisinau, Republican Clinical Hospital, the Medical University of Moldova, and the Ministry of Health in Chisinau, Moldova.¹ The general areas of the partnership include emergency medical services, medical education, surgery, cardiovascular medicine and surgery, nephrology, nursing education, infection control, and women's health.

The medical education component consists of a progressive program to reform the medical education system. Accomplishments to date are:

- More stringent admission criteria for entrance to the Medical University:
 - Students must be 18 years of age and complete 12 years of schooling;
 - Students must pass 4 entrance exams, compared to 2 previously; and
 - 400 students are accepted per year, compared to 950 previously.
- Development of residency programs in most specialties and under development for all.
- Incorporation of infection control protocol into the curriculum of all specialties.

- Mandatory EMS training for all sixth year medical students.
- Development of standards for medical licensing and medical practice.

In May 1997, Dr. Ion Ababii, President of the Medical University of Moldova, and two of his associate deans met with my colleagues and me at HCMC. I demonstrated our automated residency scheduling program, how we set up our established curriculum, as well as a typical academic year. My office, Graduate Medical Education, is responsible for the entire first-year resident schedule at Hennepin County Medical Center. With HCMC as a model, Dr. Ababii asked for assistance in establishing a curriculum and a resident tracking system at the Medical University in Moldova.

I visited Moldova in May 1998 and spent two days with the deans to gain an understanding of their rotation structure. The main goals were to improve rotation tracking and to create a demographic database. We hoped that our system would provide increased efficiency in residency time management and clinical scheduling. At present, the Medical University of Moldova has limited means to provide historical information, secondary to a very limited paper supply.

Upon arrival, I had to set aside all Western thinking about medical residency training programs. I was astounded by the size of their residency program, which was composed of 1,500 medical residents with ~500 residents per class. It quickly became evident that the volume alone would complicate producing a viable schedule.

Another aspect that was quite surprising is that the Moldovan Medical Education office does not produce their rotation schedule until the staff physicians submit their vacation requests for that academic year. Wow! Could you imagine doing that with scheduling in the United States? Academic scheduling in Moldova is conducted differently.

In the United States, our tracking system is based on a 12-month calendar with 30-day rotation blocks. In Moldova that is not necessarily the case, which presented quite a challenge. The rotation schedule for Moldovan residents may be as short as two weeks or as long as six. I spent several days attempting to figure out a way to incorporate our system into their system, but found it to be impractical. The system we presently use could only assist them as a database. However, names, schools, and students' city and/or country of origin are of great importance for Moldovans to track. The Dean's Office is as concerned about where residents are born and who their parents are, as they are about grades. I spent the duration of my 10-day visit in Moldova assisting them to set up a typical database collection system.

I also used the AHME Guide to Graduate Medical Education as a reference tool, and I am grateful to the AHME organization for donating two guides to the Moldovan partnership. The difficulty, of course, is that it is written in English. However, they have several people at the university who are capable of translating English to Moldovan, so I foresee them actually using the guide quite extensively in

WINTHROP-UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL • Office of Academic Affairs

OPENING: MEDICAL EDUCATOR

Winthrop-University Hospital, Office of Academic Affairs, **seeks an educator** to help develop and maintain innovative undergraduate, graduate, and continuing medical education programs. Candidates to have MS or PhD in Education or related discipline. Three years of progressive experience in a medical education setting preferred, as is knowledge of faculty and student assessment systems, program evaluation, curriculum design. Faculty development. A history of successful interaction with physician educators a plus, as is knowledge of current issues of academic medicine in the health care marketplace. Salary commensurate with experience.

Winthrop is a major affiliate of the SUNY at Stony Brook School of Medicine. It has 591 beds, 21 accredited residency and fellowship programs, over 200 in-house staff, an accredited CME program, and a commitment to excellence in medical student education.

Send resume with salary history in confidence to:

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Mineola, New York 11501*

the future.

In conclusion, my experience with the Moldovan medical education system was one of awe. I was very impressed with their level of functioning despite such barriers as archaic facilities and equipment. From their shortage of paper, to using pre-1986 computers for simple word processing, to their sheer volume of medical residents, I gained a whole different appreciation for the way we do business here in the United States. It was a very humbling experience for me, one that I will cherish for the rest of my life. I will never again look at our schedule of ~ 80 PGY-1 residents per year and think

that it is very complicated compared to the Moldovans' schedule of 1,500 residents for the same time period. A good friend of mine said after going to Moldova, "Maybe they are doing it the right way and we are not."

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¹ bordered on the West by Romania and the other three sides by the Ukraine.

AHME on the Net *Continued from page 3*

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