

NEWSBRIEF



FOCUS ON POVERTY

As the keynote speaker at the annual Martin Luther King, Jr., celebration in January, Roy Wade ('07) urged medical students to consider how poverty plays a role in contributing to health disparities. In early February, some Geisel students made clear that they already take this lesson seriously, as they organized a conference on the connections between medicine and poverty. The conference included a talk by Jim Withers, the founder of the Street Medicine Institute, who discussed his work with the homeless in Pittsburgh.

PAVING THE WAY FOR A NEW CURRICULUM

IN MARCH, THE CURRICULUM REDESIGN WORKING GROUPS RELEASED the initial draft of the framework for the revised medical curriculum, part of the process of preparing the new curriculum for its launch in 2015.

Tim Lahey, the project leader and an associate professor of medicine, says that the draft is far from a finished product but does reflect the major goals of the redesign effort. Those goals include an increased focus on active learning, further integration of basic science and clinical work, the addition of a longitudinal element to the clinical experience, and the inclusion of an elective master's program in health-care evaluation and innovation.

"I'm proud of it," he says. But, he adds, "there's still a long way to go."

Lahey notes that faculty members have raised a number of important questions about how the curriculum will be implemented. "A natural response that people have had is, 'Where am I on that plan?'" Lahey says. "'How do I get engaged?'" Another common question has been to ask for more details about the integration of clinical and basic science elements of the curriculum. Lahey and other members of the redesign working groups are listening to those and other concerns and will use them to create a revised draft, which will be circulated for additional discussion, building toward votes by the medical education committee and the full faculty.

Although there is a lot of work left to do, Lahey believes the draft marks an important step toward implementing the curriculum in 2015. He adds that the recent site visit made by surveyors from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) affirmed that the redesign is headed in the right direction. "They were really impressed with Geisel, but they did have some specific areas for improvement that they mentioned," Lahey says. "They talked specifically about moving away from an emphasis on lectures to emphasizing more active, engaged approaches that stimulate clinical thinking on the part of our students, which is clearly a part of this proposal."

The complete revised curriculum will not be implemented until 2015, but some components of medical education at Geisel are already changing. Over the past year, a pilot program in the first-year On Doctoring course tested a longitudinal component. In another new initiative, the Class of 2016 received iPads upon arriving at Geisel for use in their coursework, which will continue with the Class of 2017. The iPads have already allowed for the introduction of new elements into the teaching of first-year courses. Additional active-learning components have also been added to the medical pharmacology course taken by second-year students. These and other new elements of the curriculum are helping to pave the way for additional changes to be made in the coming years.

Worthy of Note



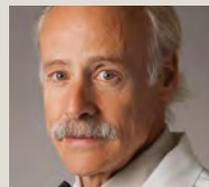
CLIFFORD BELDEN, MD, an associate professor of radiology and of neurology, was appointed chair of the Department of Radiology. He had served as interim

chair since 2011. Belden's research interests include head and neck cancer and translating emerging imaging technology to clinical practice. He is a senior member of the American Society of Neuroradiology.



C. FORDHAM VON REYN, MD, a professor of medicine and director of DarDar International Programs at Geisel, received a Lifetime Achievement Award from

the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease. The International Union honored von Reyn for developing DAR-901, the first new vaccine in 85 years shown to be effective against tuberculosis. In a large randomized controlled trial in Tanzania, DAR-901 reduced the rate of tuberculosis among HIV-infected patients by 39%. The Union also recognized von Reyn for his leadership of the Section of Infectious Disease and International Health at DHMC.



MARC ERNSTOFF, MD, a professor of medicine and associate director for clinical research at the Norris Cotton Cancer Center, was appointed to

the O. Ross McIntyre Endowed Professorship at the Norris Cotton Cancer Center and the Geisel School of Medicine Dartmouth. The professorship is named in honor of longtime NCCC director O. Ross McIntyre.

ANNA TOSTESON, ScD, a professor of medicine and of community and family medicine, was appointed the James J. Carroll Professor in Oncology at the Norris Cotton Cancer Center and the Geisel School of Medicine. Tosteson's research is in clinical and health policy issues in cancer and musculoskeletal diseases.