

COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL EDUCATION
REPORT TO MEMBERS
Neural and Musculoskeletal Sciences 1 Course – Year 1
2005-2006 Academic Year
Class of 2010

Imad Najm, M.D., Abby Abelson, M.D. and David Stroom, M.D. reported to the Curriculum Steering Council on June 2, 2006 regarding the Neural and Musculoskeletal Sciences 1 Course held in January 2006. The overall course rating by students improved significantly with 80% of students rating the course as good to excellent as compared to 39% in 2005.

Changes implemented in the past year included:

1. Rearrangement of the course sequence, moving the muscle week from week 6 to week 3.
2. Provision of a short general overview of the course at the beginning of the block and 5 minutes over sessions at the end of each week to prepare students for the upcoming week.
3. Introduction of the new seminar on basic neurophysiology.
4. Provision of a more focused seminar in muscle metabolism.
5. Alteration of the seminar delivery model to one in which students are presented the same material by two separate faculty in two separate rooms.

Overall, feedback from the students regarding these changes was positive. Seminars were well liked and the most effective seminars were those where the class was divided into two groups. Seminars requiring improvements include:

1. Two embryology seminars were redundant.
2. Suggested need for more overview seminars.
3. Need for more histology.
4. Increase anatomy.
5. Increase coverage of myelin as a seminar topic.

Faculty review of the course goals and objectives as well as that of the Year 2 course suggested the following additional topics to improve the course:

1. Mechanisms of inflammation in musculoskeletal and nervous system.
2. Purine metabolism.
3. Introduction to neuropharmacology.
4. Histopathology of myelin, trauma, and infection.
5. CNS infections.
6. Myelin function.

Accordingly, corresponding seminars were proposed for the upcoming year. Following discussion at the Curriculum Steering Council, the suggestion was made to work with leadership of the Hematology, Immunology, Microbiology Course to ensure appropriate coverage of mechanisms of inflammation and to consider moving the seminar on CNS

infections to Year 2 since microbiology is covered at the end of Year 1. These suggestions were well received by course leadership.

Overall, the CAPPs were well received by students although some minor modifications to a few CAPPs will be made.

In response to course evaluations and faculty, student, and CSC feedback, the following changes will be implemented for the next year:

1. Seminar on Purine metabolism.
2. Introduction to Neuropharmacology seminar.
3. Seminar covering general organization of the nervous system.
4. Increase histology coverage of trauma, myelin, and infection.
5. Seminar introducing overview of neuropsychiatry.
6. Reorganization of sequence of some seminars.
7. Consolidate the two Embryology seminars.
8. Develop Problem-Based Learning case focused on demyelinating disease such as multiple sclerosis in week 5 in place of the B12 deficiency case with neuropathy.

Overall, the Curriculum Steering Council felt that the Year 1 Neural and Musculoskeletal Sciences Course went very well this year with significant improvement from the previous year based on leadership effort to address previously raised concerns. The CSC complimented Drs. Najm, Abelson, and Stroom on their leadership in the course and supported their recommendations to incorporate changes as noted above in the curriculum for the 2006-2007 academic year.

Respectfully submitted,



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