

COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL EDUCATION
REPORT TO MEMBERS
Process of Discovery - Years 1 and 2
2005-2006 Academic Year
Classes of 2009 and 2010

Chris Moravec, Ph.D. and Roy Silverstein, M.D. reported on the Process of Discovery Year 1 and Year 2 Courses, respectively. Overall, the Year 1 Process of Discovery Course was felt to be successful at stimulating student interest in research. Some speakers were more interactive than others but overall 79% of students rated the course as good to excellent, an improvement from the prior year (61% good or excellent). The majority of students strongly agreed that Process of Discovery helped them gain useful career suggestions and that the course director explained expectations for student participation clearly. Dr. Moravec noted that there was some variability between organ based courses in terms of faculty teaching rating. Dr. Moravec attends all of the sessions and is able to provide feedback to seminar speakers. With regards to next year, Dr. Moravec will begin POD 1 at 12:15 and end at 1:15 leaving 15 minutes at the end of each week from 1:15 to 1:30 for the course director of the organ block to introduce the topics of the following week. Dr. Moravec is also considering adding some variety to the POD formats including panel discussions and involvement of patients. Finally, she will continue to try to enhance coordination of the weekly topics with the theme of the week, particularly related to the PBL case diagnoses.

The Process of Discovery Year 2 Seminar Series was less well rated (48% good or excellent) as compared to the Year 1 course. The majority of students strongly agreed that POD 2 Course helped them identify approaches that different researchers use to make scientific discoveries and that the POD 2 Course was a valuable component of their medical education experience. Feedback suggested that many thought this course was too much of an extension/repetition of the POD 1 Course. Overall, the seminars were well integrated into the organ system blocks and weekly themes. Dr. Silverstein noted that 17 students took the course for Case Graduate School credit. Finally, students provided feedback soliciting more active participation by the course director. In response to student evaluations, focus group suggestions, and feedback from the Basic Science Education Committee, Dr. Silverstein has recommended that the Year 2 POD Seminar Series focus more on actual research and research content rather than process. He has proposed to change the name of the course to Friday Research Seminars. Integration with the weekly theme will be sought wherever possible and overlap with Deans Dinner speakers and Friday ATP sessions will be avoided. Dr. Silverstein will pilot new small group formats to integrate research discussions with PBL case topics 4 times during the year. Four sessions in POD 2 will be allocated to organ block leaders to introduce science underlying the upcoming block. The course will end in April in recognition of student pressures with the USMLE. Finally, there will be no POD 2 Sessions on the Fridays before vacation. An associate course director will be identified to ensure better participation by course leadership.

The Curriculum Steering Council thanked Drs. Moravec and Silverstein for their efforts and accepted their recommendations for course modification in the coming year. The Curriculum Steering Council reaffirmed the value of these seminars as part of the research curriculum within the College Program.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew J. Fishleder, M.D.