

President's Column

Gary Myers, Ph.D., M.Div.



Greetings ABSAME Members,

Greetings from Heidelberg I am writing this column from Heidelberg, Germany, where I spending my sabbatical leave as a visiting professor at Heidelberg University. While in Heidelberg, I am working with an international group of colleagues in the "Human Dignity Project" located at the University. The specific focus of my research is on aspects of physician/patient communication that impinge on or damage the dignity of both the physician and the patient during the medical encounter. If anyone is interested in the human dignity project, they can follow this link to the project's web page at Heidelberg University. <http://tinyurl.com/5tcv36>

Looking forward to San Diego

As stimulating as this work is for me, I must confess that my interest in the topic of the fall ABSAME meeting "Developing and Assessing Core Behavioral Competencies" is shifting my attention to October and the many opportunities that our meeting will provide for presenting and discussing new approaches to teaching and assessing behavioral competencies. I believe that these discussions will provide an important practical and pedagogical counterpart to my more theoretical work on the role that narrative plays in maintaining the human dignity of the medical encounter. I am confident that each person attending the meeting will also find significant ways in which the topic and the many thoughtful presentations will connect with and enrich their own teaching and research. I look forward to seeing you in San Diego and to hearing about your work and your ideas.

Service to ABSAME

There continue to be significant opportunities to participate in the work of ABSAME, which depends upon the energy, ideas, and leadership of its membership. I would like to congratulate and to thank Bob Wolisin for taking on the newly created position of co-chair of the Continuing Education Committee, which does the important work of insuring that the presentations made at the ABSAME meeting will fulfill the continuing education requirements of various professional organizations.

Chairperson of the Membership Committee is an open position that is critical to the maintenance and growth of ABSAME. The person in this position is responsible for providing leadership to the Membership Committee and developing and implementing strategies that will enable ABSAME to retain and to recruit new members to the organization. If you are interested in learning more about this position or about other opportunities to contribute to the work of ABSAME please contact me at gmyers@siumed.edu

Gary E Myers Ph.D.
President, ABSAME

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Call for Nominations for ABSAME Board

There are three seats to fill on the ABSAME Board of Directors. New Board members will assume their positions at the close of the ABSAME Business Meeting in October 2008. We hope you will consider yourself or a colleague for one of the three positions. The ABSAME Board of Directors is a great opportunity to work nationally with colleagues in behavioral science and medical education.

- 1) President-Elect (non-physician) 3 year term
- 2) Member-at-Large (physician) 3 year term
- 3) Member-at-Large (non-physician) 3 year term

Board members must be members of ABSAME in good standing. Membership on the ABSAME Board of Directors requires a moderate amount of time and effort. The full Board meets face-to-face for a half-day prior to the annual meeting. Board members also communicate via email and in monthly 1 hour long conference calls. Each Board member is encouraged to serve in one or more ABSAME committee and act as liaison to other behavioral science groups. You may nominate as many people as you wish. Self-nominations are encouraged. To nominate, please provide the names, full mailing addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, and FAX numbers of nominees. Send your nominations by email to admin@absame.org ■

AAMC Medical Portal & Translations Research

Barbara E. Moquin, Ph.D., APRN, BC-P

Many people are aware of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) MedEdPORTAL - an internationally available free service that facilitates sharing of high quality peer-reviewed educational material and promotes collaboration and educational scholarship across institutions. Examples of MedEdPORTAL publications include tutorials, virtual patients, cases, lab manuals, assessment instruments, faculty development materials, etc.

Recently added to the MedEdPortal is a module for translational research and community engagement and there are more being developed by Dr. M. A. McDonald, Duke. The title is **Practicing Community-engaged Research (An Educational Module)**. This is regarding the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) from the National Center for Research Resources (NCRR) at the NIH.

To view this and other modules go to: www.aamc.org/mededportal ■

Publisher's Note

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Submit to the Newsletter

Mark E. Vogel, Ph.D. &

Jose Calderon, M.D. - Interm Editors

Progress Notes needs your submissions! *Progress Notes* collects recent news and other items of interest relating to ABSAME members. Below are a new set of submission guidelines for the *Progress Notes*

- Please submit articles via e-mail to admin@absame.org
- Submissions will be acknowledged within five business days of receipt.
- Limit each article to 200 words.
- Designate the subject category of the articles in the subject line of the e-mail.
- Attach images in a separate file, preferably as a JPEG.
- Please ensure that citations for publications, grants and presentations are accurate and formatted as intended for publication, as they will be reprinted as submitted.
- We reserve the right to make editorial changes on all submissions

Deadline for submissions to the next newsletter is: November 30, 2008

Thanks - we look forward to receiving your submission.

Textbook Update

OJ Sahler, MD and Jack Carr, PhD,
Editors of *The Behavioral Sciences and Health Care*

As many of you know, the second edition of *The Behavioral Sciences and Health Care* was published last summer. A direct link to the book's description is on the publisher's website at www.hogrefe.com/books/978-0-88937-307-5.html where readers can browse a free sample chapter on "Evolving Models of Health Care." If you have not had the opportunity to review the book for yourself, here is a link to the chapter download option: at <http://tinyurl.com/6a3w3w>

Many of the chapters of this review book for medical students and residents preparing to take the final step of the USMLE were authored by ABSAME members. All royalties revert to ABSAME for its educational and advocacy efforts.

Although we feel that readers will gain the most benefit from using the book as a whole (after all, ABSAME and the IOM encourage physicians to treat each patient as a whole person!), a special feature of the second edition is that individual chapters of the book may also be purchased as PDF files from the publisher's website at <http://www.hogrefe.com> or from <http://hhpub.ciando.com>.

Many users have commented on the excellent set of questions and extensive explanations in the review section of the book. These 300+ questions, written in USMLE style and accompanied by sound byte discussions, add a wealth of information that space did not allow the authors to present in detail in the text itself.

Please take a few minutes to review this text for your course or discussion group. Let us know what you like about the text and what you think we should incorporate in the next edition.



Annals Call for Papers

The editors of the *Annals of Behavioral Science and Medical Education* would like to invite you to contribute to the Annals. We are looking for papers for publication in the Fall 2008 issue. If you have something that you have thought about writing but have not done so yet, please do it now. Perhaps you have come across an interesting case that our membership would be interested to hear about that involved behavioral issues (either the patient's or the healthcare provider's). We are always interested to receive discussions about values in medicine and professionalism. We publish both data based research reports and conceptual discussion pieces. Consider which format might best suit you, and submit something soon. We are also looking for additional book reviewers if any of you would like to contribute in this way.

You may submit this information electronically via email to:
dself@tamu.edu

Thank you,
Don Self Ph.D.
Editor



Registration Now Open ABSAME's 38th Annual Meeting

Enjoy Wonderful San Diego

ABSAME 2008
October 16 - 18
San Diego, CA

*Developing
and Assessing
Core
Behavioral
Competencies*

The theme of the ABSAME 2008 Annual Meeting is **Developing and Assessing Core Behavioral Competencies**. The behavioral sciences play a vital role in the education and training of medical students and residents and this year's program is designed to facilitate and advance behavioral scientists' conversation and consideration of core competencies in undergraduate and graduate medical education. An overarching goal of this year's meeting is to help behavioral scientists further develop and assess the desired core competencies in their medical school curricula and graduate medical education training.

This year's meeting includes an exciting program in beautiful San Diego with presentations from a variety of professionals and esteemed colleagues working in medical education. The peer reviewed presentations offer a variety of innovative behavioral science topics in a myriad of formats. Our plenary speakers are "cutting edge" in the behavioral sciences. They will address clinical practice issues, curricula based on behavioral science research and professionalism at the graduate medical education level. As Co-Chairs of the meeting, we have enjoyed putting together what we think will be a rewarding meeting. We look forward to seeing you in San Diego.

**Deadline for Early Registraton:
September 15, 2008**

Register online at: www.absame.org

*Denise D. Gibson, Ph.D.
Nicole Borges, Ph.D.
2008 Program Co-Chairs*



Natural beauty, exciting attractions and adventures await in San Diego, California's second largest city. A city rich in cultural and art traditions along with a perfect Mediterranean climate creates an ideal location for ABSAME 08.

The Catamaran Resort Hotel, the meeting hotel, is close to the airport yet offers a breathtaking resort setting with easy access to downtown shops and restaurants. The wide variety of recreational activities within short walking distance of the resort coupled with the close proximity to San Diego attractions such as Belmont Park and Sea World provide attendees to the 2008 ABSAME meeting with the perfect opportunity to couple an extraordinary educational experience with a family adventure.

The Catamaran Resort Hotel offers casual elegance in a tropical paradise with acres of lush

foliage and sun-drenched beaches. Situated right on Mission Bay, the world's largest aquatic park, the Catamaran extends sun, sand, and tranquil water to your doorstep with the enticing waves of the Pacific Ocean just 100 yards away. Mission Bay offers boat docks and launches, sail and motorboat rentals, bike and walk baths, basketball courts, and playgrounds for children as well as several wildlife preserves. The area surrounding the private sanctuary of the Catamaran is teaming with restaurants and shopping. The full-service spa and luxury health club offer a complete line of restorative treatments and make the most of the Catamaran's lovely waterfront setting.

For more information on the resort, visit www.catamaranresort.com.

Annual Meeting - Invited Speakers

We are excited about the invited speakers for this years Annual Meeting. We have include here a brief outline of each of their sessions.

Interpersonal and Communication Skills: Educating for Relational Competency - Elizabeth A. Rider, MSW, MD, FAAP

In her plenary presentation, “Interpersonal and Communication Skills: Educating for Relational Competency,” Dr. Elizabeth Rider will discuss the interpersonal and communication competencies, provide an expanded definition of both terms, and discuss innovative methods for teaching and assessing these competencies.

Dr. Rider is senior author of the book, *A Practical Guide to Teaching and Assessing the ACGME Core Competencies* (HCPro, Inc., 2007). “The framework you use or adapt for teaching and assessment should focus on both interpersonal and communication skills, and should pay particular attention to the physician-patient relationship, understanding the patient’s perspective, and patient-centered care. A substantial body of data supports the association of these components with improved health outcomes.” (This quote is from her book which is available from Amazon.com and other booksellers and will also be available at the ABSAME Annual meeting).

The NIH Social and Behavioral Sciences Curriculum: Advancing Medical Education for a Better Tomorrow - Patricia Carney, Ph, Jason Satterfield, Ph, & Margaret Stuber, MD

Jason Satterfield, PhD from UCSF, Patricia Carney, PhD from OHSU and Margaret Stuber, MD from UCLA will provide a panel plenary presentation on Friday, October 17, 2008 titled, The NIH Social and Behavioral Sciences Curriculum: Advancing Medical Education for a Better Tomorrow. Panelists will provide an update on what nine medical schools are doing to incorporate behavioral and social sciences content throughout all four years of medical school in both the pre-clinical and clinical curricula. Preliminary results from the Evaluation Core of this NIH Grant, lead by Dr. Carney, will be presented. The Evaluation Core provides a summation of the efforts of this collaborative during the first two years of operation. A few examples of curricular changes implemented from the nine medical schools include incorporation of bio-psychosocial approaches that stress holistic, culturally sensitive, and interactive approaches to patient care, development of student empathy, communication, and teamwork skills with a particular focus on patient safety and promotion of lifelong habits of self-directed learning and self-care. This plenary presentation fits well with the overall theme of this year’s annual meeting – Developing and Assessing Core Behavioral Competencies. We hope you will plan to attend this important talk.

Assessing Professional Behavior in Residency - Peter Katsuftrakis, MD, MBA

In his plenary presentation, Dr. Katsuftrakis will discuss the following objectives:

1. List means by which professional behaviors can be assessed in a residency.
2. Describe the elements of the National Board of Medical Examiners’ Assessment of Professional Behaviors program.
3. Identify strengths and challenges of using a multisource feedback process in assessing performance.

Much has been written about professionalism, yet educators still struggle to provide meaningful, effective assessment and training. This session will review elements of professionalism and describe several tools to assess professionalism. The presenter will focus most of the presentation on developmental work the National Board of Medical Examiners is conducting with several pilot sites to produce a program



**Program information
available online
www.absame.org**