

From the University of Mississippi Medical Center Division of Public Affairs

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE EARNS CONTINUED ACCREDITATION FOR EIGHT YEARS

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JACKSON, Miss. – The Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME), the nationally recognized accrediting authority for medical education programs leading to the M.D. degree in United States and Canada, has continued accreditation of the University of Mississippi School of Medicine for an eight-year term. The medical school received no citations for noncompliance with accreditation standards, a first for the university and rare across the United States and Canada.

“Educating tomorrow’s health professionals is one of three core missions of UMMC and it’s a true testament to the dedication and expertise of our faculty and staff when we receive national recognition for our efforts” said Dr. LouAnn Woodward, associate vice chancellor for health affairs.

The LCME survey team, who visited the campus in February, conducted a thorough review of the medical education program and recently released its findings. Of the 129 standards of accreditation, the LCME can assign one of three statuses: strength, compliance with monitoring, or noncompliance. The 203-page report cited three strengths: effective dean and education program leaders; education program improvements based on medical student evaluation of courses, clerkships and faculty; and effective counseling of Mississippi applicants during the admissions process.

The team also assigned five standards a status of compliance with monitoring. These five areas include submission of grades in a timely manner; expanding narrative feedback in the pre-clinical years; ensuring sufficient financial aid staffing, support and counseling; and describing the impact of the possible affiliation with another health facility on the education of medical students. The university will be required to provide a progress report to the LCME on these items.

“The credit for this exceptional LCME report goes to every person involved in the education, mentoring and counseling of our medical students,” Woodward said.

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The University of Mississippi Medical Center, located in Jackson, is the state’s only academic medical center. University of Mississippi Health Care represents the clinical programs of the Medical Center and includes University Hospitals and Health System and University Physicians, the faculty group practice. UMMC encompasses five health science schools, including medicine, nursing, health related professions, dentistry and graduate studies, as well as the site where University of Mississippi pharmacy students do their clinical training. The Medical Center’s threefold mission is to educate tomorrow’s health-care professionals, conduct innovative research to improve human health, and to provide the highest quality care available to the state’s citizens. A major goal of the Medical

Center is the improvement of the health of Mississippians and the elimination of health disparities. For more information, contact the Division of Public Affairs at 601-984-1100 or visit us on the Web at <http://publicaffairs.umc.edu/>