



IMPACT the RACE represents boon for medical education at UMMC

By Dr. Loretta Jackson-Williams



Jackson-Williams

This year, the School of Medicine secured a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration in the Value-Based Medical Student Education Training Program for four years.

The project, named “IMPACT the RACE – Improved Primary Care for the Rural Community through Medical Education” by the school, is directed by Dr. Loretta Jackson-Williams, UMMC vice dean for medical education, and Dr. David Norris, UMMC assistant dean for academic affairs.

The school was eligible for the grant because of the overall health outcomes in the state: 80 of Mississippi’s 82 counties have been designated as medically underserved areas by HRSA; 84 percent of these MUAs are rural; and 94 percent of Mississippi’s counties are designated primary care health professional shortage areas.

More than half of the state’s residents live in rural areas. The grant infuses resources into the medical educational program that will allow for a significant impact on health care in rural communities and the distribution of the physician workforce in the state.

During the next four years, the School of Medicine has committed to some substantial changes in the medical education program that will have the following effects:

- Development and support of a rural curriculum for all students;
- Rural rotations for self-selected and interested students;
- Targeted faculty development;
- Summer enrichment programs for various students, including high school students considering a career in medicine, college students preparing to apply to medical school and students admitted to the medical school with an interest in rural medicine;
- Expanded academic support for all students;
- Enhanced Mercy Delta experience; and
- Development of a network with rural hospitals and residency programs.

To achieve the outlined effects, impact health care in rural communities and ensure sustained progress of this work beyond the initial years of funding will require the SOM to engage with local physicians, other schools on campus, colleges, universities and a number of other stakeholders across the state. Those stakeholders include the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program, the Office of Mississippi Physician Workforce and the Mississippi Medical Association.

Those who have a specific interest in any of this work may contact the program by email at impacttherace@umc.edu. Together, we can all leverage UMMC’s mission area of education to help create a healthier Mississippi.

GME sessions meet accreditation needs

Graduate medical education is a distinct learning environment that requires a particular collection of skills and experiences.

Although there are many overlaps with teaching in other areas, the nuances of GME accreditation, competency assessment and administration of GME programs requires focused training specific to these needs.

In response to this need, the GME office is offering several recorded sessions to address some of these needs.

Sessions topics are listed below. Videos for the first two sessions are available by clicking the session title or by scanning the associated QR code.



1. [Program Recruiting and Interview Strategies](#)
2. [Optimizing your Program’s Clinical Competency Committee](#)
3. **Feedback and Evaluation**
4. **How to Survive a Site Visit – Oct. 29**
5. **Program Evaluation Committee: Continuous Quality Improvement – Nov. 12**
6. **Remediation, Probation and Dismissal: Navigating the Waters – Nov. 25**

eLearning sessions cover various topics

The Office of Medical Education has designed and organized a series of professional development eLearning sessions for all UMMC faculty to address gaps identified throughout the academic year.

These sessions, listed below, can be accessed in CE Central:

1. **Assessing Course Effectiveness** - Dr. Carley Dear
2. **Cultural Competency and Implicit Associations in Education** - Dr. Juanyce Taylor
3. **Introduction to Designing Instruction for Adult Learners** – Dr. Loretta Jackson-Williams
4. **Supporting and Promoting Self-directed Learning** – Dr. Savannah Duckworth
5. **Active Learning Strategies for Adult Learners** – Wesley Wilson
6. **Educational Research and Quality Improvement** – Dr. Michael Ryan
7. **Big Blue Button, Studio and NearPod** – Jessica Overby-Green
8. **Writing Objectives and Selecting Outcomes** – Dr. David Norris

Academic Quality Subcommittee sings new remote learning NOTE

By Elizabeth Jacobs



Last March, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, UMMC faculty were forced to move to a remote learning situation.

This was a quick transition and there was little time to recreate instructional content designed specifically for online presentation.

Currently, programs at UMMC are still quite different than they were one year ago. Web

conferences are the new normal. Recorded lectures are included in almost every course. Student engagement tools, such as NearPod, are being more widely used to measure student understanding of the content delivered.

As a result of this shift, a need was identified, and several months ago, the Academic Quality Subcommittee, a subcommittee of the eCampus Advisory Committee, was formed. The group selected was tasked with developing instructional resources for creating and maintaining online educational instructional content as exceptional as that found in the traditional learning environments at UMMC.

The resulting product is the Navigating the Online Environment Course, also known as the NOTE Course.

The NOTE Course is divided into modules that discuss topics such as foundational principles for adult learning; aligning learning objectives; assessment and measurement techniques; importance of utilizing a variety of instructional resources; collaboration and interactivity in online learning; course design and tools for instruction; and technologies available for UMMC faculty.

The course itself is an example of a properly structured online course. It is currently being piloted by a group of faculty comprised of representatives from each school at UMMC.

Once feedback has been received, reviewed and acting upon, the course will be available for all faculty at UMMC. In addition to the resource itself, upon successful completion of the course, participants will have the opportunity to earn a digital credential and continuing educational credit.

Watch for additional announcements detailing the course and credit availability, and get ready to take NOTE.

Vice dean's letter opens dialogue with state physicians

Dr. Loretta Jackson-Williams, UMMC vice dean for medical education, wrote a letter to her colleagues as an editorial in the August 2020 issue of the Journal of the Mississippi State Medical Association.

The article, "Reintroducing the State's School of Medicine: A Letter to My Colleagues," is aimed at opening "a dialogue with Mississippi physicians about the state's medical school."

It outlines the growth in applicants and matriculants; program requirements; and the support offered to its students – all of which are Mississippi residents.

Join the discussion as the OME moves medical education forward with the aim of providing high quality and equitable health care, particularly to the state's residents.

OME website introduces new faculty scholarship page

In September, the Office of Medical Education launched a [faculty scholarship page](#) on its website.

This webpage is devoted to sharing news about faculty scholarship, including recently published manuscripts, conference presentations and grants. Viewers can review the webpage, see recent faculty scholarship and submit their scholarship for the next update.

The webpage will be updated regularly. To submit a brief synopsis or abstract of recently accepted or published manuscripts, conference presentations or grants that address medical education, email [Dr. Lecretia A. Buckley](#) with the subject heading, "Faculty Scholarship."

SOM faculty's dedication to medical education is appreciated, and the OME wants to share the good news regularly.

Research integrity committee seeks pandemic submissions

The Conference Planning Committee of Research Integrity Southeast '21 invites UMMC faculty, staff and students to make submissions for individual presentations (papers) and posters on "Research Integrity in the Wake of a Global Pandemic: Implications, Reflections and Effects."

Submissions of papers and posters should include a title page, including the author's name, institutional affiliation, contact information and submission category and an abstract of no more than 350 words suitable for blind review.

Submissions should be emailed by Dec. 1 to Lida B. Gibson at lbjibson@umc.edu with "RIS Submission; author's last name; paper/poster" in the subject line. For more information, email lbjibson@umc.edu.

Medical Education welcomes new staff

The Office of Medical Education welcomes two new staff members.

Joey Weiss now serves as the instructional designer for the School of Medicine's Impact the Race Program.

Before joining the School of Medicine staff, Weiss served as a high school teacher for the Palm Beach County, Florida School District, where she educated students in finance and business. While there, she also served as an instructor for Future Business Leaders of America, as a coach and as a blood drive coordinator.

Joey also served as coordinator of instructional technology for Baptist Health South Florida, where she trained various health professionals. Joey earned her master's degree in health care management and her bachelor's degree in business administration at Colorado Technical University. Her professional interests include community involvement, volunteering and mentoring youth.

Rakesh Patel serves as project manager for the School of Medicine's IMPACT the RACE Grant Program.

Before joining the School of Medicine, Patel worked in the UMMC Strategic Planning and Business Process Improvement Departments, providing project management and process improvement support to many of the organization's executives.

Patel earned his master's degree in health care administration at St. Joseph's University and received his bachelor's degree in kinesiology and biology from the University of Texas.