Promoting Recruitment Opportunities in Medicine with Individual Study Experiences is an early assurance program for students underrepresented in medicine. The program is sponsored and managed by the School of Medicine.

Major goals of the program include:

- Introducing students to career opportunities in medicine;
- Engaging students in enrichment programs that help strengthen individual academic foundation;
- Exposing students to faculty who are active in medicine;
- Encouraging students to pursue careers as physicians; and
- Guiding students through the processes and preparation required to apply to and attend medical school. This includes a focus on preparation for the Medical College Admission Test.

Students who complete the PROMISE program and meet the metrics established by the SOM Admissions Executive Committee will be eligible for a position in the SOM at UMMC. Eligibility is also dependent upon the completion of all undergraduate degree requirements and the PROMISE program requirements.

Clearinghouse helps SOM students discover research opportunities

By Dr. David Norris

Liaison Committee on Medical Education element 3.2 ensures that medical education programs take place in an environment that fosters intellectual challenge and spirit of inquiry appropriate to a community of scholars, including opportunities for students to engage in research or other scholarly activities.

To meet this standard at UMMC, the Office of Medical Education created the Medical Student Research Clearinghouse during the summer of 2019. Hosted in Canvas, the clearinghouse provides all students with information about ongoing national and local research, including foundational science, clinical science and educational research opportunities.

With 20 different opportunities listed, the OME is helping to draw student attention to UMMC’s research mission: More than 80 percent of students have accessed the site since its creation. Further, recent AAMC data show that UMMC’s SOM students were increasingly aware of research opportunities available to them.

The clearinghouse is updated twice annually to remain current. Faculty interested in having students join them on one or more research projects may email the project name, a brief description, the time commitment and the names of the PI and contact person to Dr. David Norris at drnorris@umc.edu to have their projects added to the clearinghouse.

New OME webpage recognizes excellence in SOM teaching at UMMC

By Dr. Lecretia A. Buckley

Teaching is the “backbone of what we do,” as described by Dr. Loretta Jackson-Williams in a recent conversation.

For this reason, along with limited recognition for the hard work and extensive time and thought that goes into teaching with excellence, the Office of Medical Education launched a teaching awards webpage this fall.

The webpage shares news of faculty who have been recognized by medical students, their peers in the School of Medicine, the institution or through discipline- or specialty-specific organizations for exhibiting excellence in teaching. Through this webpage, the OME can recognize faculty excellence in teaching and the contributions faculty make to education, a primary mission of the School of Medicine.

We encourage everyone to join the OME in offering appreciation for the awardees’ commitment to medical education and in congratulating them. Various awards are listed, including the Trailblazer Award for Excellence in Medical Education, the Nelson Order, the Regions Bank TEACH Prize and the Evers Society teaching awards.

To submit the names of faculty who have been recognized for excellence in teaching by their professional organizations in the last three years for inclusion on the webpage, email lbuckley@umc.edu.
Additional features make Studio more than just a video sharing platform

By Ms. Elizabeth Jacobs

Studio is the recommended video file sharing platform in Canvas courses at UMMC. It is conveniently integrated into each course and has no storage limit. This is important because each course has a file storage limit of 2GB.

Recently, a new level of video organization was added to Studio. Users are now able to create collections in their respective Studio Libraries, allowing videos related to similar topics or courses to be grouped together. Collections makes it easier to locate, access and share videos.

Additional features that make the upgraded Studio a valuable tool for education include:

- Video quizzing, which allows questions to be inserted into a video file from the My Uploads page so instructors can collect a measurable assessment during the content delivery. If a student is unsure of the correct response, a re-watch option encourages them to review it. With specific settings, the quiz results can even be automatically added to the course gradebook.
- Studio also provides a means for student/instructor interaction. With actual face-to-face time currently being diminished, such interaction is in high demand.
- Allowing comments when adding video to a course component creates this opportunity. While viewing a recording, students may add comments at the exact moments in the recording when questions are sparked.
- A single reply may be made to each comment, giving the instructor an opportunity to clarify the content in question. All students in the course are able to see the comments and respond; therefore, if the instructor wants to provide the reply, specific instructions should be included.
- Insights, analytics within Studio, are available for instructors to see who watched their recordings and how much of it was viewed. When video files are required for assignment submissions, students may use Studio to upload their files. Multiple file types are accepted in Studio, making it easy for instructors and students to use.

Despite all of these options, there are a couple of notable limitations:

- When working in Studio, users have the ability to record; however, this is only reliable for videos up to five minutes in length. Longer recordings tend to lose audio, and it is recommended students create their recordings using another solution and upload to Studio.
- When an uploaded file is deleted in Studio, it is gone. Retaining backups is always a best practice.

UMMC training documentation is available in the Canvas: Features & Updates – TLC Course. Canvas also has Studio Guides available.

OME welcomes new M1 officers, admins

2020-2021 M1 Class Officers

Ernest Moses Lam, President
Reagan Marie Moak, Vice President
Annie Catherine Strauss, Secretary
Erin Elizabeth Rushing, Treasurer
Dallad Ryan Ederer, Curriculum Committee Representative
William Rex Tounsend III, Intramural Co-Director
Peter Hamilton Liddell, Faculty Liaison
Kayla Grace Lovitt and Meagan Nicole Wier, Community Service Co-Chairs
Ivanna Nicole Adams-Nelson and Keauna Shundrea Hilton, Diversity Co-Chairs
Felicia Michelle Gordon, Richard Joseph Malone and Simmy Vig, Social Chairs
Emily Kate Cobb and Kathryn Nye Noel, SOM Building Facility

Administrators

Affan Mohammad Rizwan, Podcasting Chair
Reece Ford Crumpler and Jordan Alyse Healy, Note Service Co-Chairs

Faculty spotlight: Bela (Dr. K) Kanyicska

By Dr. Lyssa Weatherly

Béla Kanyicska is a name that might not quickly catch the attention of School of Medicine students, but if they were to hear “Dr. K,” immediate recognition would bring smiles to their faces and acclamations of how wonderful the retired faculty member is.

Kanyicska was born in Hungary and obtained most of his education there, earning his bachelor’s in biology and chemistry, his master’s in biochemistry and his doctorate in neuroscience. After he moved to the U.S., Kanyicska joined the University of Florida faculty before coming to UMMC’s Department of Neurobiology and Anatomical Sciences in 2003.

He is beloved by students for his kind demeanor, helpful teaching and approachable attitude. He always wears a smile and is the first to offer assistance to the struggling histology learner.

He makes the difficult concept digestible and easy to understand, and does so with patience and delight. His joyful disposition was a favorite of students, earning him multiple “All Star Professor” awards, induction into the Evers Society Hall of Fame for his exceptional teaching, and induction into the Norman C. Nelson Order of Teaching Excellence.

He is truly the personification of someone who loves what he does, which makes his teaching enjoyable and his students’ learning fun.

He retired from UMMC in June 2020 after 17 years of teaching, research and dedication to educating nearly two decades of Mississippi physicians and scientists. He will be greatly missed.

The University of Mississippi Medical Center Offers Equal Opportunity in Education and Employment, M/F/D/V.