The Continuing Medical Education Committee (CMEC) is one of the permanent committees of the University of Arizona, College of Medicine-Tucson (COM-T). The CMEC approves continuing medical education (CME) policy, provides oversight of CME activities, and assures the approved policies and activities meet accreditation standards for continuing medical education. The College of Medicine Office of CME (OCME) is the operating arm for CME activities. The current CME Committee members and COM support staff are below.

Committee Members as of November 2020:

1. Jennifer Plitt, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine (6/2019 – 6/2022) jplitt@aemrc.arizona.edu, Chair

2. Laura Stephens, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology (6/2020 – 6/2023) lstephens@email.arizona.edu, Vice Chair

3. Sarah Desoky, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Medical Imaging (6/2019 – 6/2022) sdesoky@radiology.arizona.edu

4. Valerie Ebert, DO, Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics (6/2019 – 6/2022) vebert@email.arizona.edu

5. Afshin Sam, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine (6/2018 – 6/2021) asam@email.arizona.edu

6. Daniel Combs, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics (6/2019 – 6/2022) dcombs@peds.arizona.edu

7. Bijin Thajudeen, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine (6/2020 – 6/2023) bijint@email.arizona.edu

8. Ryan Matika, MD, Associate Professor, Department of Anesthesiology (6/2018 – 6/2021) rmatika@email.arizona.edu

9. Emily Clair McClung, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology (6/2020 - 6/2023) ecmcclung@email.arizona.edu

10. Nicholas Stea, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine (6/2020 – 6/2023) nstea@aemrc.arizona.edu
Support Staff:

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Educational Activities:

The UA College of Medicine – Tucson has been accredited by the ACCME since 1986 and remains dedicated to providing high-quality educational activities in support of its mission to increase knowledge, advance physician competence, improve clinical performance, and provide the best care possible for patients. In March 2019, The COM-T received accreditation with commendation. The commendation status is the highest status awarded by the ACCME.

The ACCME’s commendation status recognizes institutions that are engaged in quality initiatives within their health systems and their communities through collaborative alliances. Institutions receiving commendation must also demonstrate the implementation of educational strategies to remove, overcome, or address barriers to physician change. In recognition of the overall quality of CME programming, the ACCME granted reaccreditation for six years instead of the typical four years.
Every CME activity has to comply with criteria for development, funding, presentation and evaluation. Since the OCME serves our academic community, activities originate from faculty members of the College of Medicine-Tucson (direct activities) and from outside organizations (joint providers). Activities include enduring materials (e.g., online educational programs); live events (e.g., conferences); and regularly scheduled series (e.g., grand rounds). Table 1 below lists the CME activities by type over the last six calendar years.

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<th>Table 1. CME Activities by Calendar Year 2013-2018</th>
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<td>Activity Type</td>
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<td>Regularly Scheduled Series (RSS) Direct</td>
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<td>Total Activities</td>
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The COM-T also maintains a significant online presence through the COM-T-owned website, The Virtual Lecture Hall® (VLH). The VLH contains interactive, evidence-based, online medical education programs on a wide variety of topics, many of which are required for licensure or renewal of licensure in over 40 states. The VLH currently offers 29 courses with a total of 107.5 CME credit hours available. Examples of VLH offerings include courses on medical errors prevention, medical ethics, risk management, patient safety, professional responsibility, cultural competency, and pain management. Several of the courses offered by the VLH were developed with grant support from the National Institute of Health (NIH). Since 1998, physicians and other health professionals have earned over 200,000 hours of CME credit on the VLH website.
College of Medicine faculty in both Tucson and Phoenix, as well as community preceptors, can receive up to 10 free credits of CME ($250 value).

As part of its mission and with the support of the CMEC, the UA College of Medicine – Tucson has taken a leading role in addressing the epidemic of opioid overdose both in Arizona and across the nation. The OCME collaborated with the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health and the Arizona Department of Health Services to create a suite of online courses to help providers safely manage patients on opioid medications and to disseminate the Arizona Opioid Prescribing Guidelines. Four courses offering 6 CME credits have been developed to meet the recently-mandated Arizona Medical Board licensure requirement of 3 credits per licensing cycle in opioid-related, substance use-related, or addiction-related continuing medical education.

Continuing Medical Education Committee Activities and Accomplishments Highlights, 2019-2020

1. Collaborated with the UA COM-T Office of Continuing Medical Education to accredit live conferences, grand rounds, and enduring materials. (See Table 1 above.)

2. In 2019, the CMEC advocated for the provision of Maintenance of Certification (MOC) credit in addition to routine CME credit for the activities described above. In response, the COM-T will begin offering MOC credit for several of its online courses in November 2020.

3. Competed the draft of the online course, Professionalism and Patient Care: Training the Health Care Team, funded through a BUMC-Tucson Medical Staff Grant. The COM-T Continuing Medical Education Committee (CMEC) worked in collaboration with Banner’s Continuing Inter-professional Education Committee (IPEC) to create a scenario-driven, online course addressing prevention and remediation of lapses in professionalism based on recurring, actual events at our local Banner facilities.
4. Supported the development of additional content (i.e., interactive, online courses) for the Virtual Lecture Hall, the UA COM-T’s continuing medical education (CME) site, and broadened inter-professional content:

   o Added the course, Rice A. Gaither J. Recognition and Management of Opioid Overdose for EMS Personnel Eds. Kutob RM, Derksen D. The Virtual Lecture Hall. www.vlh.com. 2019. (Interactive online program founded by the Mel and Enid College of Public Health via the Arizona Department of Health Services as part of Governor’s response to the Arizona Opioid Epidemic.) This work promotes the goal of increasing our interprofessional offerings.

   o Completed work on the course, Obesity and Motivational Interviewing (Algotar A, Kutob RM also funded through a BUMC-Tucson Medical Staff Grant.

5. Assisted and provided feedback for the Office of Continuing Medical Education’s launch of a new, text-based grand rounds attendance tracking system in early 2020. This system provides for more stream-lined reporting of attendance and easy access to CME transcripts for physicians.