

Continuing Medical Education Committee Report to the General Faculty

November 2017

The Continuing Medical Education Committee (CMEC) is one of the permanent committees of the University of Arizona, College of Medicine (COM). 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 2017:

1. Valerie Ebert, DO, Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics (6/2016 – 6/2019) vebert@email.arizona.edu, CMEC Chair
2. Sarah Desoky, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Medical Imaging (6/2016 – 6/2019) sdesoky@radiology.arizona.edu, CMEC Vice Chair
3. Sam Afshin, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine (6/2015 – 6/2018) asam@email.arizona.edu
4. Daniel Combs, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics (6/2016 – 6/2019) dcombs@peds.arizona.edu
5. Brenda A. Gentz, MD, Associate Professor, Department of Anesthesiology (6/2017-6/2020) bgentz@email.arizona.edu
6. Ryan Matika, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Anesthesiology (6/2017 – 6/2020) rmatika@email.arizona.edu
7. Teri Gail Pritchard, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Director, Resident/Fellow Development (6/2017 – 6/2020) tpritchard@email.arizona.edu
8. Bijin Thajudeen, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine (6/2017 – 6/2020) bijint@email.arizona.edu
9. Ole Thienhaus, MD, MD, Department Head, Professor, Department of Psychiatry (6/2016 – 6/2019) ojt@email.arizona.edu
10. Hina Arif Tiwari, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Medical Imaging (6/2017-6/2020) hinaarif@email.arizona.edu

Support Staff:

- Randa Kutob, MD, MPH, Director, Office of Continuing Medical Education
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- Robert Amend, MEd, Operations Manager, Office of Continuing Medical Education
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- Cheryl Novalis-Marine, MBA, MIS, Senior Applications Architect, Office of Continuing Medical Education
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Educational Activities:

The College of Medicine is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through March 2019 to sponsor educational activities for *AMA PRA Category 1 CME Credit™*. 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 (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 four calendar years.

Activity Type	2013	2014	2015	2016
Enduring Direct	10	22	22	24
Enduring Joint	39	28	23	29
Total Enduring	49	50	45	53
Live Direct	21	14	13	11
Live Joint	23	23	29	30

Total Live	44	37	42	41
Regularly Scheduled Series (RSS) Direct	42	43	37	40
RSS Joint	13	11	11	11
Total RSS	55	54	48	51
Total Activities	148	141	135	145

In 2012, as part of its expansion into online CME, the College of Medicine purchased The Virtual Lecture Hall® (VLH), an interactive, evidence-based, online medical education website that offers CME courses on a wide variety of topics, many of which are required for licensure or renewal of licensure in several states. The list of VLH offerings includes courses on medical errors prevention, medical ethics, risk management, patient safety, professional responsibility, cultural competency, and pain management, among others. The VLH does not accept advertisements and is supported by fees from individual users and organizations in order to print CME certificates. The VLH does not offer CME courses supported by educational grants from pharmaceutical or device companies. Several of the courses offered by the VLH were developed with grant support from the National Institute of Health (NIH), resulting in numerous research publications and several clinical/educational tools for physicians, such as “The Physicians' Competence in Substance Abuse Test” (P-CSAT) which is now in the public domain (Harris & Sun, 2012). The VLH currently offers 28 courses with a total of over 85 CME credit hours. Since 1998, physicians have earned over 180,000 CME credits on the VLH website (www.vlh.com).

Continuing Medical Education Committee Activities and Accomplishments Highlights, 2016-17:

1. Collaborated with the UA COM-T Office of Continuing Medical Education to accredit conferences, grand rounds, and enduring materials.
2. Identified content authors to develop additional content (interactive, online courses) for the UA COM-T owned Virtual Lecture Hall (VLH) on the topic of safe opioid prescribing. This work was funded through a \$25,000 subcontract with the College of Public Health (Dr. Dan Derksen, PI) as part of an Arizona Department of Health Services-sponsored initiative to disseminate new Arizona opioid prescribing guidelines. Four hours of enduring material were developed dealing with safe opioid prescribing in general adult, adolescent, pregnant, and neonatal populations.

3. Assisted with preparations for the very successful “New Innovations in CME Annual Alumni Conference” featuring Deans Cairns and Ramos (2016) as keynote speakers who gave outstanding presentations on the topic of precision medicine.
4. Spearheaded ongoing collaborations with the Banner Continuing Interprofessional Education (CIPE) Committee to streamline CME processes between our two offices.
5. Reviewed and approved the now fully launched online CME Application System.
6. Committee members identified several areas of institutional CME need/knowledge gaps and selected the area of professionalism as a focus for further efforts. The CMEC in collaboration with Banner’s CIPE Committee submitted a proposal on this topic, *Professionalism and Patient Care: Training the Health Care Team*, in response to the BUMC-Tucson Medical Staff Grant Application request for proposals. The CMEC’s proposal was selected for funding (\$2500). The CMEC will create a scenario-driven, online course addressing prevention and remediation of lapses in professionalism based on recurring, actual events at our local facilities. The program will consist of interactive scenarios, incorporating prevention strategies and recommendations for remediation when professionalism lapses occur.