In Dr. David Musick’s article last month, he spoke of faculty vitality and introduced Ms. Christie Wills who has joined the OCPD team to focus on the critical and overlapping concepts of leadership and well-being. In her own words below, Christie gives you some insight into what she has been doing since she has arrived and invites you to contact her with ideas and suggestions related to professional well-being. Welcome, Christie! We are glad to have you aboard!

While onboarding in my new role as Manager of Physician Leadership Development & Professional Wellbeing this year, I have sought out best practices in promoting professional wellbeing from individuals throughout the organization.

Operating out of the Office of Continuing Professional Development and working in conjunction with Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs, Dr. David Musick, and Medical Director, Dr. Mark Greenawald, this new position is targeted to be of service to you, the faculty.

From enabling improved co-worker interactions to simple efforts for self-care, here are some examples of professional wellbeing that I have observed folks already doing on their own:

- a section meeting where the birthdays of all the staff are celebrated each month with donuts and orange juice
- a collegial “journal club” discussion of recent research publications over a shared meal held within the final 30 minutes of one specialty’s staff meeting once per month
- a physician attuned to her own internal barometer who knows when it is time to get up and take a walk around the building

Our efforts to support your work are guided by the Quadruple Aim with the goal of improving the work life of the health care provider to reduce burnout and ultimately optimize performance for patient care.

In October, we will re-launch a committee of clinical champions from each department dedicated to finding and supporting interventions for professional wellbeing. We will strive for both system-wide improvements as well as ideas for personal, professional satisfaction.

I look forward to working with you and I welcome your ideas and suggestions.

Christie Wills
cmwills@carilionclinic.org
Dean’s Corner
Cynda Johnson, MD, MBA

Our institutional self-study officially got underway last week with a kick-off event for the more than 65 faculty, staff, and students who comprise the six subcommittees and steering committee involved in this crucial part of our re-accreditation process.

As you recall, the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) informed us earlier this year that they had approved our change in governance structure from an independent, non-profit institution to a college of Virginia Tech. This gave us the green light to proceed with our plans to integrate with the university; it also gave us plenty to do to prepare for the group’s site visit in October 2018.

LCME is the nationally recognized accrediting authority for medical education programs leading to the M.D. degree in the United States and Canada, and accreditation is required in most states for licensing graduates and receiving federal financial aid.

Facilitated by the faculty accreditation leaders Drs. Dan Harrington and Rick Vari, the self-study will use data from an Independent Student Analysis (ISA), the Association of American Medical Colleges Graduate Questionnaire, the official Data Collection Instrument (DCI), and key questions asked by LCME to analyze how well we meet 12 key standards and a total of 93 elements.

Subcommittee chairs and the self-study areas their groups will be responsible for are listed below.

Mike Nolan, Ph.D.                Steering Committee Chair
Charles Schleupner, M.D.        Mission, Organization, and Leadership
Heidi Lane, Ed.D.                Academic and Learning Environments, Educational Resources
Michael Jeremiah, M.D.          Faculty Productivity and Policies
Shari Whicker, Ed.D.            Curricular Design, Management, and Content
Jennifer Vaughn, Ph.D.          Teaching and Student and Patient Safety
Thomas Milam, M.D.              Medical Student Selection, Academic and Other Support Services

The self-study summary report, to be completed this fall, will provide us with an overall evaluation of the quality of our medical school program and a plan to address any challenges that emerged from the self-study. The summary report provides an evaluation of the quality of our medical education program, and the adequacy of resources that support it.

I want to back up just a bit to acknowledge some of the behind-the-scenes work that has already been done. Our students completed the ISA back in the spring. The student group appointed for this task had a 100% participation rate among all four classes. Also earlier this year, the senior
leadership team completed written responses to the 93 elements in the DCI, and I am pleased to share that all of these have been reviewed and discussed.

VTCSOM is on track to integrate into Virginia Tech as its ninth college on July 1, 2018. Our goal is to provide regular updates as this process moves forward. In the meantime, a website has been created to offer accreditation information and updates.

Cynda