

# Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine

## FREE\* Newsletter

### \*(Faculty Resources for Educational Excellence)

#### VTCSOM Office of Continuing Professional Development

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#### Quote of the Month

“I do the very best I know  
how, the very best I can,  
and I mean to keep on doing  
so until the end.”

— Abraham Lincoln

#### Twelve Tips for Teaching Excellence in the New Year

As we reflect on the holidays and prepare for the swiftly approaching New Year, it is important to be thoughtful about our resolutions. As educators, this may be a good time to reflect on our teaching of years past and resolve ourselves to even better meet the needs of our learners next year. *Medical Teacher* features a Twelve Tips article in each publication as an excellent and brief resource for medical educators.

The following twelve tips provide simple, practical steps that educators can apply to promote excellence in teaching at both an individual and organizational level. How might you incorporate some or all tips in the coming year to improve your teaching?

- **Tip 1: Outcome-based education**  
Establish explicit learning and teaching outcomes to help teachers plan their teaching.
- **Tip 2: Implement best evidence medical education (BEME)**  
Make the link between evidence-based medical practice and evidence-based medical education.
- **Tip 3: Journal clubs and review of existing literature**  
Establish or join a journal club to critically appraise medical education articles.
- **Tip 4: Faculty development**  
Offer and participate in faculty development opportunities to create a positive learning environment for teachers.
- **Tip 5: Evaluation of teaching**  
Provide and respond to feedback on teaching.
- **Tip 6: Evaluate impact of teaching**  
Determine how the teaching has affected the learners.
- **Tip 7: Mentoring**  
Appoint a panel of senior educators as mentors for junior faculty. Faculty should seek and participate in mentoring relationships.
- **Tip 8: Institutional funding for educational research and development**  
Encourage educational research by awarding small departmental or institutional grants. Faculty should seek both internal and external opportunities for educational research.
- **Tip 9: Promote an institutional culture that values teaching highly**  
Elevate the importance of teaching equivalent to that of research.
- **Tip 10: Rewarding excellence in teaching**  
Reward teachers who improve their teaching techniques based on best available evidence.
- **Tip 11: Recognize scholarship in teaching including best evidence medical education**  
Introduce all medical educators to the scholarship of teaching.
- **Tip 12: Participate in the BEME collaboration**  
Join the BEME collaboration and participate in topic reviews.

At the organizational level, TEACH (Teaching Excellence Academy for Collaborative Healthcare) seeks to embody each of these twelve tips and more. Join TEACH now or contact us to discover ways in which we can help you achieve your teaching resolutions over the next year (<http://info.vtc.vt.edu/teach/membership/membership-application/>). Happy holidays and happy teaching from the Office of Continuing Professional Development and TEACH!

Mariah Rudd



# Dean's Corner

Cynda Johnson, MD, MBA  
October 2016

I thought I'd end 2016 on a high note—16 of them, to be exact. I invite you all to visit a fun, interactive website that calls attention to some of our greatest achievements from the past year:

<http://medicine.vtc.vt.edu/2016holidays/>

As you can see, it has been a stellar year for us, with successes in virtually every aspect of the school: research, student achievement and recognition, faculty involvement, and community engagement, to name a few. We are so fortunate to have such a talented and dedicated group of faculty, staff, and students.

In the coming year, there is much to be excited about already, including graduation of the class that gave us a “full house,” the Class of 2017. In addition, it's hard to believe, but some of our charter class graduates will complete their three-year residencies and move onto their careers in practice. Also in the coming year, some of our students will take part in two new international rotations in Taiwan and Brazil. Finally, we will be continuing our forward momentum on integrating the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine with Virginia Tech as its ninth college.

I look forward to working with you in the coming year to keep building on our successes. Happy New Year!

Cynda