

OCPD FREE*

*Faculty Resource for Educational Excellence

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"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." - Nelson Mandela

CME for YOU!

The Accreditation Council for Continuing Education (ACCME) recognizes and provides general supervision for state and territorial medical societies which are responsible for operating intrastate accreditation programs. The Medical Society of Virginia (MSV) is recognized by the ACCME and accredits the Carilion Clinic's CME Program.

The goal of the Continuing Medical Education (CME) program at Carilion Clinic is to improve the health of the communities we serve by educating physicians and other health professionals in new areas of medical knowledge and clinical skills, so that the overall ability to meet the health needs of the patients and communities are continually enhanced. These educational opportunities encompass a wide range of offerings addressing not only clinical challenges, but leadership, teaching, and research.

Over the last academic year, Carilion Clinic's CME Office offered 1,641 CME conferences, which was an increase of approximately 25.25%. Participants included 1,537 different physicians, as well as, 1,691 other healthcare providers.

The CME Office at Carilion is comprised of five members who support CME activities across the organization. Dr. Paul Dallas provides guidance and perspective from the medical profession as CME Medical Director. Linda Wells, serves as CME Manager overseeing the day to day operations of the team who include Paula Robertson and Carol Gibson (CME Program Specialists) and Department Secretary, Susan Curtiss.

CME procurement is not inexpensive. A common model for CME funding at academic institutions involves each department being charged for their own CME activities. Without a CME Office, Carilion would need to accredit our conferences through another system that could, making our activities much more costly.

When we benchmarked with another Virginia academic health center, we discovered that ONE weekly Regularly Scheduled Series (such as Grand Rounds) would cost a department with an average of 30 physician participants close to \$18,000 per year. Most of our departments host multiple RSSs leading to a potentially very costly venture! However, thanks to our leadership's recognition of the value of CME, these expenses are underwritten by the institution for internally sponsored activities at Carilion. This is less common than models that use a department-funded model for either internally or externally facilitated accreditation.

Thanks to the financial support for CME from Carilion leadership, the first step for departments seeking CME accreditation for an event or series is the completion of a CME Application. Development and implementation of the CME activity begins with an exploration of why the learning activity is being planned and the details behind the event. This is done to ensure that events are sound, meaningful, and free from bias. Therefore, specific criteria must be followed and detailed information provided in order to have an activity approved for **AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™**.

CME partners throughout each department work hard with their faculty to complete CME applications. The process is not always easy, but the CME Office is always here to provide as much guidance as is necessary. Detailed information, guidelines, and application materials can be found on the CME Webpage – www.carilionclinic.org/cme. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or concerns or ways in which we can help further!



Dean's Corner

Cynda Johnson, MD, MBA

You may think it seems like an eternity that we've been talking about the medical school's Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) accreditation process. And rightly so. The last 18 months have been spent giving solid attention to this work. While each of the milestones in this process have been important, the culmination occurred earlier this month when we submitted a 4,700-page package to the accrediting body in preparation for their site visit this fall.

For a new medical school like ours, the accreditation process is almost constant. Our first hurdle was earning preliminary accreditation in June 2009. This enabled us to recruit our first class. In the fall of 2011, we were granted the next step in the process—provisional accreditation. New medical schools are eligible for full accreditation upon the graduation of their charter class. In June of 2014, we celebrated receiving full accreditation with no citations. This accomplishment is still incredible to me.

We have one more milestone in these short accreditation cycles—reaccreditation, five years after graduation of our charter class. That is what we have been busy preparing for. After this, we hope to move into a regular eight year cycle. We are all hoping for that breath of fresh air.

The package we submitted this month was comprised of our self-study summary report; our independent student analysis; and our database, containing responses to questions LCME gave us as well as more than thousands of pages of appendices with information backing up our responses.

There will be a flurry of activity at VTC SOM this fall. To prepare for the LCME visit, we will be participating in a mock site visit September 13 and 14 and the official visit October 21 to 24.

There is a tendency to link the LCME site visit with our recent integration into Virginia Tech, but actually, the two events are independent of each other. We were due for LCME re-accreditation this fall regardless of the timing of the integration.

My most sincere thanks to all of you who helped us get to this point.

Cynda



These seven notebooks contained the more than 4,700 pages of documentation sent to the LCME for our upcoming accreditation.