

Explore & Focus Committee Minutes

Date	June 27, 2022
Time	4:00 – 5:30PM
Co-Chairs	<i>Esther Chung</i>
Attendees	Academic Chair: <i>Esther Chung</i>
QUORUM REACHED: NO	Voting Members: <i>Doug Schaad, Emily Myers, Matt Cunningham, Matthew Hollon, Sarah Thomson, Thomas Payne</i>
	Guests: <i>Sarah Wood, Aubrey Brown, Nancy Miles, Gerald Tolbert, Jordan Allen, Eric Kraus, Claire Sandstrom, John Scott, Margie Trenary, Jung Lee, Karla Kelly, John McCarthy, Gina Franco, Michael Campion, Ivan Henson, Judy Swanson, Jordan Kinder, Mark Whipple, Erin Gunsul, Geoff Jones, Ruth Sanchez, Sylvia Zavatchen, Jay Erickson, Heather McPhillips, Ian Qureshi, Sara Kim, Rebecca Gettelman</i>
Regrets	Voting members: <i>Alson Burke, Amanda Kost, Barb Doty, Chelsea Denney, Jaryd Unangst, Madelyn Peha, Mike Spinelli, Nam Tran, Ralph Ermoian, Roger Tatum, Susan Merel, Troy Johnston</i>

Agenda

	ITEM	LEAD	TIME	ATTACHMENT(S)	ACTION
1	Approve May Minutes	Esther Chung	5 min	Attachment A	Decision
2	Announcement: Four-week Forensic Pathology elective in Montana was approved via e-vote	Esther Chung / Jessica Wheeler	5 min	Attachment B	Announcement
3	APC and Sub-I Criteria Revisions	Gina Franco / Esther Chung	5 min	Attachment C, D, E	Decision
4	Ambulatory Telehealth Elective Application	Mark Whipple	10 min	Attachment F	Decision
5	PEDS 618 Clerkship Application Pediatric Rheumatology – Boise, ID	Emily Myers	10 min	Attachment G	Decision
6	MEDECK 702 Clerkship Application Lifestyle is Medicine – Meridian, ID	Rebecca Gettelman	10 min	Attachment H	Decision
7	MEDECK 647 Clerkship Application Clinical Hematology/Oncology – Nampa, ID	Ian Qureshi	10 min	Attachment I	Decision
8	MEDECK 635 Clerkship Application Hospital Inpatient APC – Missoula, MT	Jay Erickson	10 min	Attachment J	Decision
9	Student Satisfaction: Healthcare Access	Gerald Tolbert / Sara Kim	15 min		Discussion

1. Approve May Minutes

Discussion: The committee voted to approve May meeting minutes.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DECISION REQUIRED? MOVED TO E-VOTE	[14] VOTES FOR	[0] VOTES AGAINST
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Decision: The Explore & Focus committee approved May meeting minutes

2. Announcement

Discussion: The Explore & Focus Phase Committee approved a four-week Forensic Pathology elective in Montana via e-vote on June 7, 2022. The clerkship (at Montana Medical Examiner's office) provides consultation, education, and autopsy services for the county coroners, who are primarily responsible for all death investigations in Montana. Students will spend one month at either the Missoula or the Billings autopsy facility, and observe forensic autopsies performed by the forensic pathologist, with the possibility of attendance at death scenes and viewing of courtroom testimony if the situation arises.

See meeting handouts for details.

3. APC and Sub-I Criteria Revisions

Discussion: A subcommittee was formed after the May Explore & Focus Phase committee meeting to finalize proposed revisions to the Advanced Patient Care clerkships (APCs) and Sub-Internship criteria, specifically to update the criteria to include some longitudinal courses, that otherwise fit the requirements of an APC (in goals and hour requirements).

A summary of the proposed revisions include:

- General language clean-up.
- Change “full-week, full-time” to “8 credit.” Adding additional information: “while sub-internships must be full-time four-week experiences, other APC rotations may be longitudinal as long as students complete the number of clinical hours needed for an 8-credit clerkship.”
- Remove the following from APC goals: “*Apply concepts and skills from the longitudinal Ecology of Health & Medicine course in a relevant clinical setting. (These activities will be assessed by EHM faculty but may require the clerkship to provide dedicated time and access to relevant personnel. Specific activities are described separately.)*”
- Add the following to APC goals: “Demonstrate independence and ability to think critically, skills necessary to transition to residency.”
- Edit language around number of patients that should be seen in an APC. From: “*must allow student to become responsible for the care of the appropriate number of patients*” to “*should allow the student to take responsibility for the care of a number of patients that exceeds the amount seen by a typical Patient Care Phase student.*”
- Clarify the definition of “team” for a Sub-Internship, from: “*The elective must either involve the student functioning as a part of a team of residents, preferably one on which there is at least one intern (first-year resident), as this experience is meant to better prepare the student for residency and patient management; or alternatively if appropriate for the particular specificity, if the elective is at a community-based clinic or hospital the student must work under the direct supervision of one or more attending physicians in the manner of a first-year resident in that specialty.*” To: “*The rotation must either involve the student functioning as a part of a team of residents, or alternatively the student must work under the direct supervision of one or more attending physicians in the manner of a first-year resident in that specialty.*”

- Update patient care and continuity language, from: *“elective must allow the student to become responsible for the care of more than one patient at a time and following those patients in extreme detail.”* To: *“rotation must allow the student to become responsible for the care of more than one patient at a time, with the opportunity to follow those patients as an intern in that specialty would”*
- Remove the following from Sub-Internship criteria: *“The elective must include a significant inpatient experience if appropriate for the specialty.”*

The committee provided feedback and a few additional suggestions. The revised documents will go before the committee for review, a motion, second, and vote electronically. The endorsed revisions will go to Curriculum Committee in the fall for review and final approval.

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Decision: The Explore & Focus committee endorsed the revisions to the Advanced Patient Care clerkships (APCs) and Sub-Internship criteria.

4. Ambulatory Telehealth Elective Application

Discussion: The committee reviewed the conjoint (Family Medicine, Medicine, and Emergency Medicine) clerkship application for the 2-week, 4 credit Ambulatory Telehealth elective. This clerkship is focused on learning and practicing telehealth skills within the ambulatory care environment. Students will typically work with multiple providers in synchronous outpatient telehealth settings. They may also work with additional providers in asynchronous (store and forward) and tele-consultation (provider to provider) encounters. Students will expand their understanding of the appropriate use of tele-health within the ambulatory care setting, including communication, physical examination, technological, social, legal, and regulatory aspects. They will learn when telehealth visits are appropriate and how telehealth visits fit within the overall health care model. They will obtain hands-on practice engaging in and documenting telehealth visits within the context of the electronic medical record.

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Decision: The Explore & Focus committee approved the conjoint (Family Medicine, Medicine, and Emergency Medicine) clerkship application for the 2-week, 4 credit Ambulatory Telehealth elective.

5. PEDS 618 Clerkship Application | Pediatric Rheumatology – Boise, ID

Discussion: The committee reviewed the clerkship application for the two- or four-week (4- or 8-credit) Pediatric Rheumatology elective in Boise, Idaho. Students will gain exposure to the work-up, diagnosis, and management of rheumatologic diseases. Learners will work clinically under the supervision of a faculty member in an outpatient clinic and inpatient consult service. Learners will be exposed to a wide degree of pathology from both inflammatory and non-inflammatory causes. They will both observe/shadow established clinicians as well as see patients independently with appropriate supervision. New patient visits and inpatient consults are an especially good setting for learners to apply what they have learned and practice critical thinking skills.

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Decision: The Explore & Focus committee approved the two- or four-week (4- or 8-credit) Pediatric Rheumatology elective in Boise, Idaho (PEDS 618).

6. MEDECK 702 Clerkship Application | Lifestyle is Medicine – Meridian, ID

Discussion: The committee reviewed the clerkship application for the 2-week (4 credit) “Lifestyle is Medicine” elective in Meridian, Idaho. The clerkship will empower students with knowledge and skills to help their patients achieve better overall health and a greater quality of life. Lifestyle interventions have been shown to prevent, treat, manage, or even reverse many serious conditions, such as diabetes and prediabetes, obesity, high blood pressure, heart disease, mild cognitive impairment, osteoarthritis, autoimmune issues, depression, and more. Clerkship goals include:

- Define evidence-based lifestyle medicine and its significance
- Identify the role nutrition plays in lifestyle medicine
- Describe the pathophysiology of sleep
- Participate in cardiopulmonary and peripheral artery disease rehabilitation
- Describe the connection between stress and health
- Understand emotional wellness through behavior change/motivational interviewing/health coaching

The committee provided feedback on how to strengthen the application. The revised application will go before the committee for review, a motion, second, and vote electronically.

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Decision: The Explore & Focus committee approved the 2-week (4 credit) “Lifestyle is Medicine” elective in Meridian, Idaho (MEDECK 702).

7. MEDECK 647 Clerkship Application | Clinical Hematology/Oncology – Nampa, ID

Discussion: The committee reviewed the clerkship application for the 4-week (8 credit) Clinical Hematology/Oncology elective in Nampa, Idaho. The clerkship will provide outpatient and inpatient experience hematologic/oncologic disorders. The elective will include teaching rounds, conferences, and evaluation of laboratory work.

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Decision: The Explore & Focus committee approved the 4-week (8 credit) Clinical Hematology/Oncology elective in Nampa, Idaho (MEDECK 647).

8. MEDECK 635 Clerkship Application | Hospital Inpatient APC – Missoula, MT

Discussion: The committee reviewed the clerkship application for 4-week (8 credit) Hospital Inpatient APC in Missoula, Montana. This is an intensive experience in hospital medicine in which the student works closely with an attending physician, functioning as a resident on an inpatient hospitalist team. Each attending physician carries a census of 12-18 patients at a time; the student will be the primary provider for a subset of those patients. Most shifts will be day shifts, but there may be some evening/weekend shifts depending on the availability.

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Decision: The Explore & Focus committee approved the 4-week (8 credit) Hospital Inpatient APC in Missoula, Montana (MEDECK 635).

9. Student Satisfaction: Healthcare Access

Discussion: At the 2018 Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) 2018 accreditation site visit, the UWSOM received an “Unsatisfactory” rating for “Clinical students’ access to healthcare services” standard (12.4): *A medical school provides its medical students with timely access to needed diagnostic, preventive, and therapeutic health services at sites in reasonable proximity to the locations of their required educational experiences and has policies and procedures in place that permit students to be excused from these experiences to seek needed care.*

In 2020, the UWSOM received an updated “Satisfactory with a need for monitoring” rating from the LCME from the UWSOM’s status report submission.

The committee reviewed recent data on clinical student satisfaction with the adequacy of UWSOM’s guidance on accessing healthcare. The dissatisfaction rate has raised. Key takeaways from thematic analysis of students’ comments include:

- The large geographic region/crossing state lines/ timeliness is difficult because rotations are typically 6-weeks in length.
- Difficulty accessing and navigating healthcare system.
- Regardless of policy language, there is concern that taking time off will affect their grade. There is a disconnect between the policy and the culture.
- The School should look into creating a telehealth option for students (reduce cost, increase timely access, and decrease confusion).

Actions to address this citation include:

- Improve messaging to students on who to reach out to if they face resistance to taking time off for medical appointments in the clinical phases:
 - Peer support
 - College faculty mentor
 - Clerkship director
 - And the [Learning Environment Reporting Tool](#) (aLERT).
 - This issue is under the Learning Environment Committee’s purview.
- Potential policy revisions to the Attendance and Absentee Policy:
 - Clean up the language of healthcare related absences (currently it references “anticipated,” “unanticipated,” “allowed,” “not allowed,” etc.)
 - Revisit instructions on requesting time off: “students should consult with the appropriate clerkship director/administrator at least 6 weeks prior to the beginning of the clerkship to limit the negative impact on the clerkship experience”
- Ongoing training for clerkship directors to work with site directors and preceptors to create a culture of supporting medical students in addressing their healthcare needs during their rotations.

ACTION: This group will report back to committee in the fall.