ACADEMY OF MASTER EDUCATORS

An Institutional Resource to Advance Education and Professional Development

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PURPOSE

The intellectual and motivational underpinnings of a successful medical school rest on the strength and enthusiasm of its faculty teachers. The Academy of Master Educators (AME) was established to achieve three goals:

- To give formal, institutional recognition to faculty who consistently demonstrate excellence in the teaching of medical students;
- To advance the educational mission of the school by tapping these teachers for faculty development; and
- To support and promote educational scholarship.

METHODS

The nucleus of AME is a core group of faculty members who have been widely recognized for their teaching excellence over the years and who have been intensely involved in curriculum development. A governance and nomination process was developed to expand the Academy to its current state. Nominated faculty were selected on the basis of their accomplishments in the domains of educational career goals and objectives, all forms of direct teaching activities, curriculum development initiatives, educational administration and development activities, advising and mentoring, and educational scholarship. In addition to serving as a general resource for the School of Medicine, the AME has developed timely and practical initiatives addressing broad faculty and learner needs.

RESULTS

In January 2007, the Academy of Master Educators was formally instituted with 55 members. The academy currently has 49 active members and six emeriti, including 43 MDs, 10 PhDs, and two MD-PhDs. These individuals have formed three task forces to address the education-related goals of the School of Medicine:

1. The Teaching Residents to Teach task force has developed a curriculum of teaching activities available to residencies and fellowships which has been incorporated strategically into postgraduate training. In 2008 this program was very well received by 497 new postgraduate trainees.

2. The task force on Mentoring and Faculty Development has the dual goal of establishing a comprehensive faculty development curriculum and a mentoring program for junior faculty. It also has initiated a faculty development lecture series. AME members will serve as mentors to junior faculty, based on mutual interests and mentor expertise.

3. The Virtual Center for Evidence-Based Medicine Education was established to improve faculty expertise through educational programs on biostatistics, clinical epidemiology, and related fields. The center now features approximately 10 hours of online streaming video content. Additional content is being added regularly.

CONCLUSIONS

The Academy of Master Educators has already been highly effective in harnessing the talent of the school’s leading educators to implement innovative programming. The AME has also achieved its goals of recognizing superb teachers and using their expertise to advance the educational agendas of the institution. Faculty educators appreciate the recognition, and AME has raised student perceptions of the value in which these teachers are held.

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