

**UPSOM Curriculum Committee
Minutes of the 525th Meeting
August 18, 2025**

Jason Rosenstock, MD, Chair
Bill Yates, PhD, Vice Chair

Business of the Curriculum Committee on August 18, 2025

Motion	Vote Tally	Approved?
Approval of Meeting Minutes from 8/04	12 Yes, 0 No	YES
Approval 2 Week Elective: Idea to Impact	13 Yes, 0 No	YES

Voting Members Present: A. Brophy, MS2; A. Tanna, MS2; B. Yates, PhD; B. O'Donnell, MD; C. Yanta, MD; E. Egbert, MS2; J. Waxman, MD, PhD; J. Rosenstock, MD; M. DeFrances, MD, PhD; M. Schmidt, PhD; M. Behan, MSTP; N. Agarwal, MD; P. Drain, PhD; R. Schuchert, MD; R. Maier, MD, MA; S. Truschel, PhD; U. Gaffney, MS2; V. Agarwal, MD

Ex-Officio Members Present: A. Hyderi, MD, MPH; A. Serra, MD, MPH; E. Ufomata, MD, MS; L. Borghesi, PhD; R. Buranosky, MD, MPH; R. Van Deusen, MD, MS

Invited Colleagues and Guests: A. Brown, MD; A. Patel, MS4; B. Hileman, MS4; B. Spataro, MD, MS; C. Newman; G. Null, MA; J. Suyama, MD, FACEP; J. Maier, PhD, MD; J. Szymusiak, MD, MS; K. Scott, MA; K. Stanley, MS4; L. Francis, MD; M. Haley, MD; M. Sergeant, MPH, MSL; P. Workman, MD; R. Al-Ramadhani, MD; R. Peterson, MD; T. Bui, MD; T. Cyr, MD, PhD

Members participated virtually and in-person.

Dr. Rosenstock opened the meeting at 4:00PM.

Curriculum Committee members voted to APPROVE meeting minutes from 8/04.

**Course Proposal: Idea to Impact (2
Week Elective)**

Drs. Eloho Ufomata and John Maier discussed a proposal for a new two-week elective called Idea to Impact: Introduction to Translation through Commercialization

This two-week elective will focus on introducing students to important concepts in commercial translation (the translation of discoveries into clinical use through commercialization). The experience will include approximately 2 hours of introductory didactic lecture discussion about the commercial translation ecosystem including intellectual property (patents, copyright and know how); and technical communication that bridges technology and business. The core work of the elective will be the development of an 'Idea to Impact' pitch deck and pitch.

Curriculum Committee members voted to APPROVE the course proposal for the two-week elective: Idea to Impact.

**Policy on Academic Remediation,
Observation, and Warning –
Procedures Clarification**

Dr. Lisa Borghesi presented a clarification, not a change, to the Remediation, Observation, and Warning Policy. She specified that makeup exams follow the same timelines as remediation exams. Discussion highlighted several points:

- **Extenuating circumstances:** Exceptions (e.g., illness, hospitalization) remain in place for both remediation and makeup exams.

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- **Remediation timelines:** Conversation centered on how to count the “7 business days” allowed—whether the exam day counts as day one. After further discussion, attendees agreed Friday (exam day) is day one and this will be clarified.
- **Exam score reporting:** Students requested faster feedback. Dr. Borghesi explained current practices (individual notices Sunday, full scores Monday) and announced a new plan to release preliminary scores on Fridays with the caveat that they may change after review.

The committee agreed on two procedural clarifications:

1. Makeup exams follow remediation timelines.
2. The exam day counts as the first business day.

Broader issues (Step deadlines, remediation limits, policy consistency across cohorts) will be addressed in upcoming student and committee meetings.

Research/ROMS Update

Dr. Bill Yates gave a research/ROMS update. The ROMS Committee (Research on Medical Students) reviews all protocols involving Pitt med students, ensuring protection from coercion and unnecessary survey burden. The committee meets weekly, and IRB approval is contingent on ROMS approval. The typical turnaround is about two weeks for exempt/expedited studies. In addition, the following was discussed:

- **Research Oversight at Pitt:** The Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) oversees IRB, the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee's (IACUC), conflict of interest, biosafety, research security, radiation safety, and related compliance functions.
- **Funding Environment:** Federal grant funding dipped but is rebounding. Pitt typically receives close to \$1B annually. NIH recently updated its mission, emphasizing training biomedical scientists, reproducibility, data-sharing, AI integration, nutrition, autism, HIV/AIDS, and measurable health outcomes. There is also pressure to reduce animal research.
- **Federal Policy Changes:**
 - Executive order increases oversight and potential drawback of grants that are not aligned with administration priorities.
 - Research security training is now mandatory for anyone named on federal grants (rolling out across agencies). Pitt built a one-hour training module now required locally.
 - NIH restricting foreign subawards; DoD and others limiting foreign nationals (esp. from China, Iran, Russia, North Korea) on funded research.
- **Student Research at Pitt SOM:** All students must complete the Longitudinal Research Project (LRP) — a four-year, hypothesis-driven scholarly project, that has been in place for about 20 years. Students should choose projects aligned with funding priorities.

GQ: Preliminary Curriculum Data

Dr. Jason Rosenstock previewed preliminary results from the 2025 Graduation Questionnaire (GQ). Overall student satisfaction was very high—94.5% rated their PittMed experience positively, above national averages and prior years. Nearly all students (98–100%) felt well prepared for residency across clinical and professional domains. Foundational courses, especially anatomy, showed significant improvement, with 84% reporting adequate preparation for surgery clerkship. Clerkship evaluations were also strong.

The GQ is critical for benchmarking, accreditation, and curriculum review, so high response rates matter. PittMed achieved 85.7% this year and is aiming for higher through dedicated survey-completion sessions with food and incentives. Internal surveys are also being aligned with GQ content to ensure robust data ahead of the 2026 accreditation review. Faculty emphasized the importance of both major surveys and smaller course/clerkship evaluations to guide continuous improvement.

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Committee Follow-Up and Needs
Assessment

Dr. Jason Rosenstock reviewed follow-ups on prior initiatives, including the LRP review, MSTP clerkship readiness, Step 1 support, POCUS integration, dual degree programs, site assignment policy, ILS timing, ALCE leadership recruitment, pre-clerkship leadership, flex weeks, and PCAT progress. Updates showed many projects are moving forward.

He then shifted to a needs assessment: reflecting on whether the committee has the skills, structure, and environment to tackle upcoming challenges. Suggestions included regular subcommittee reporting, more structured student input (both retrospective and forward-looking), opportunities to hear student CQI projects, and broader reflection on preparing physicians for future practice (e.g., AI, evolving healthcare needs). Attendees emphasized fostering open dialogue, balancing small-group and full-committee student engagement, and keeping focus on both current and future curriculum priorities.

The next meeting is on Monday, September 15th at 4PM. Dr. Rosenstock closed the meeting at 5:30PM.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Sergent, recording secretary.