

PAEA Northeastern Consortium Mid-Year Meeting
Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ
3/9-10/09 Minutes

Thirty-five faculty members from 16 PA Programs attended the second annual mid-year meeting of the Northeast Consortium.

The Dean's Office at Seton Hall hosted a continental breakfast for the group.

Kathy Roche reviewed the minutes of the previous mid-year meeting with reports on the various action items. ARC-PA responded to our request for clarification about long-term care standards by referring us to the standards themselves. Barbara Poetzsch held two sessions on faculty serving as standard patients for each other. There is some interest in this but the problems/logistics seem to outweigh the benefits. Many programs use their university/college drama students and some use community actors for standardized patients.

Jennifer Joseph and Carol Sadley facilitated a workshop session on Academic Integrity which generated a great deal of discussion. UMDNJ has implemented a university-wide new program to establish a culture of academic integrity.

The group held an open discussion on the use of laptop computers in the classroom. Some programs use an option of shutting down online access during class to try to cut down on "multi-tasking." A few programs require laptops. Younger students seem to be adept at looking up and integrating new information into lecture notes; some students seem to spend more time "off task." Some instructors are finding interactive ways to use them. Some programs use their laptops for testing.

Rosann Ippolito announced that the Awards Committee is interested in increasing the number of nominations for awards. The new rules include the ability for faculty members to make nominations (formerly they had to be made by Program or Medical Directors or a Dean, etc.) The Nominations Committee is also looking for candidates for office.

Seton Hall is looking for examples of faculty assessment tools. Ellen Mandel (mandelel@shu.edu) is collecting these.

Hot topic: Entry-Level Doctoral Degree. The consensus of this group seems to be that this is not wanted or needed. No one is quite clear what is driving this push, although some is coming from academia and from the Army clinical doctorate program. The cost that this would add to health care is a great concern, particularly in the current economy. Questions: what would be its utility? would it lead to improved marketability? what would the curriculum modifications entail? how would this fit into the new health care environment (Obama's planned emphasis on public health and policy)? will it lead to improved quality of care?

Sanofi-Aventis provided lunch and a speaker on Allergic Rhinitis and Chronic Urticaria.

Patrick Enking of UNE facilitated a discussion about attaining, maintaining quality, and keeping clinical sites. Topics included preceptor training & monitoring, compensating sites, maintaining sites, site development, monitoring student experiences (patient contacts, attendance, professional behaviors, etc.). Compensating sites may include actual payment, CME events, interdisciplinary activities on a college level, faculty appointments, CME I (through AAFP for AAFP members) or II credit, ACLS or BLS recertification, tuition reimbursement, etc. Site development strategies include contacting alumni, offering faculty appointments, medical director and other faculty connections, student connections, welcome packets to new practices when they open, other local area clinical coordinators, providing housing (Craig's list), mass mailings, cold calling, current preceptor contacts. Preceptor training/competency and objectives monitoring ideas included end-of-rotation evaluation by the sites, site visits, packets (manuals, objectives, student logs (Typhon, E-value, home-grown systems), etc.). Bad habits may be uncovered by OSCEs and site visits. Monitoring student experiences include site visits, patient procedure logs, end-of rotation exams, preceptor reports/evaluations, diagnosis logging systems, and setting benchmarks for students. Check the HHS website for rules about what the preceptor must document in the record in order to bill for a visit where a student is involved.

Hot Topics: Shadowing. Suggestions for helping applicants get shadowing opportunities included going through the hospital volunteer office, working through the applicant's employing institution if that institution employs PAs, and going through state PA organizations.

Hot Topics: Patient Care Experience. Requirements for applicants for patient care experience ranges from none to 2000 hours. Some programs have decreased their experience. The groups discussed ranking of types of experience and what actually constitutes patient care experience.

Hot Topics: Health Care Reform. The group briefly discussed the need to include preparation for PA students for working in the current reform environment.

Hot Topics: Question Bank. The SE Consortium has a question bank that all programs can draw from. We discussed whether the NE Consortium should develop such a bank. The major challenge would be finding time to set up, maintain, and administer a test bank.

MedPharma sponsored a breakfast for the group on 3/10.

Claire O'Connell and Carol Biscardi presented "Evidence-Based Capstone Project: Two Programs' Perspectives." (Contact them for lecture handouts.) Seton Hall's capstone project is a small-group original research project completed during the clinical phase, while UMDNJ has moved to an evidence-based project during the academic phase. The programs represented are finding students' writing skills are not to expected standards and are having to do remedial work. Albany uses a committee of readers including a

content specialist from the community. A discussion of Carnegie credits for supervising research ensued. Some programs use Blackboard discussion groups for students to help each other refine research questions.

Merly Picard (OT) and Denise Rizzolo (PA) of SHU did an interactive presentation on Stress Reduction for the Educator and Student. Denise focused on yoga, humor, and relaxing reading as techniques that can be used by PA faculty to help students (and themselves) reduce stress. Merly specifically talked about being a faculty member as a high stress occupation and how to deal with it. She led the group through several stress reduction activities.

The group has two offers for hosting the next midyear meeting: Mass College of Pharmacy New Hampshire and Stonybrook-Manhattan. Members should indicate their preference to Kathy Roche.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Scott,
Secretary-Treasurer

