

December Curriculum Reform Update

December, 2019

SOCR: The Students of Curriculum Reform

As the paths for the curriculum reform efforts in the School of Medicine began to take shape, a group of passionate and inquisitive students came together as an organized body to provide valuable insight and contributions from their perspectives as students. SOCR, Students of Curriculum Reform, is made up of students throughout the School of Medicine from different years of the program with a variety of research interests and perspectives on how this change can provide the biggest benefits to the students.

What is SOCR?

SOCR is a student organization that is comprised of 95 student representatives from first year through fourth year. These students serve on a variety of committees that allow them to connect and mentor their peers such as the MSC Student Council and the Advisory College Program. Some of the members of SOCR also serve on a variety of curriculum reform committees that have specific frames of focus. For example, there are students who are currently participating or have participated in an LIC program serving on the LIC Reform Committee to provide insight into particular sites or programs to better prepare for the transition to an LIC model in the Trek Curriculum.

What are their Goals?

These students have representation on every committee from Assessment and Evaluation to Advanced Science Courses planning. They work together to identify current needs, future needs and ways that these needs can be met through the resources that are available to them and the School of Medicine. Through their collaborative efforts, they have been able to track and log their experiences to provide valuable contributions to the curriculum reform committees as well as share information amongst each other.

The Students of Curriculum Reform are working together and within their committees to identify areas of opportunity to facilitate mentorship, program consistency and leadership development in the Trek Curriculum. While some students are a little unsure of what the final path will look like, they are confident of the direction the School of Medicine headed because they have played such a big role in the development of the new curriculum. These students are working with the reform committees to make sure that they have opportunities to connect with each other during the hybrid year when big changes will be happening between the overlaps of

curriculum to provide support to each other as well as promote comradery between the phases of students. They view big events throughout the year, like the Winter Gala, Student Council events and ACP events, as being critical to their well-being and facilitating the CUSOM Student identity. Having the opportunity to bond with each other through these social events as well as identify key needs of the student population to be successful as a student, is critical to the development of leaders, not only amongst each other but in the future of medicine as well.

Interested in Joining SOCR?

SOCR is a student group that meets monthly and is always open to more student involvement and participation. If you are interested in joining SOCR to participate in the curriculum reform efforts or simply learn more information about what the student representatives are currently working on, please contact:

Experiences from our SOCR Members:

"I think the coolest part about SOCR for me has been getting a chance to see how hard our deans, educators, and fellow students are working to improve future students' experiences. I'm continually impressed by the ability of the faculty to spend countless hours working for our benefit, while also somehow finding time to remain dedicated to their patients."

-Troy Kincaid, MS2

"Being able to have an impact in medical education and find innovative ways to help change the medical system."

-Nicholas Bianchina, MS3

Recent Website Questions:

Q: Will the students have access to new resources or technologies with the creation of the new curriculum?

As with our current curriculum, faculty are working with technology in different ways to enhance the learning environment. This will continue in the new curriculum, as well. Examples of this include the use of virtual technologies in the CAPE and the anatomy labs.

Q: How will tutoring efforts change with the new curriculum/block structure?

With more online quizzes and self-assessments, our goal is to shift to viewing assessment as a way of learning. More small group work will also hopefully lead to a more collaborative environment for students to work together while learning. Mandatory class attendance will also lead to enhanced

relationships between faculty and students so that content questions can be discussed and clarified in real time. Tutors will still be available, but were hopeful that weekly assessments will help lead to more manageable chunks of material.

Q: What will happen to the overlap between the LIC's and the Acting Internships and what will that overlap look like?

I think this question refers to the overlap between the Legacy and Trek Curricula. Since LICs have large outpatient clinical requirements, the inpatient space where most Acting Internships occurs should not be impacted. SOCR students are part of our committee on Acting Internships and their role in the new curriculum.