REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Millennium Conference 2015 on Transforming the Post-Clerkship Curriculum

Sponsored by
Carl J. Shapiro Institute for Education and Research
and
Association of American Medical Colleges

Babson Executive Conference Center
Babson College
Wellesley, MA
May 6-8, 2015

I. Request for Applications

The Carl J. Shapiro Institute for Education and Research at Harvard Medical School and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and the Association of American Medical Colleges requests applications from medical schools and affiliated teaching hospitals who wish to participate in Millennium Conference 2015 on Transforming the Post-Clerkship Curriculum. The conference will generate ideas for innovations to redesign the post-clerkship curriculum in undergraduate medical education (UME) to better prepare graduates for residency and their subsequent careers as practicing physicians.

The post-clerkship period, as opposed to time spent on clerkships, is a variable and often unstructured expanse of experiences. It is unclear whether students are prepared for residency or have established habits that will carry them through their professional careers. An issue of Academic Medicine has been dedicated to discussing curricular innovations in the 4th year. At the same time, curricular reform at multiple institutions has started to shift clerkships to begin earlier, begging the question of whether more advanced basic science training needs to occur after clinical rotations. Requirements, whether real or imagined, for students to apply to competitive fields also abound, such as “audition” rotations. Lack of explicit learning objectives and/or proper advising lead students to take extended amounts of time away from patient care; the consequence is often erosion in knowledge and clinical skills, which may hinder their preparation for residency.

Fundamentally, we ask whether the predominant attention on the pre-clerkship and clerkship curricula has caused us to neglect post-clerkship learning. Are we missing opportunities to further prepare our students to safely and seamlessly transition between medical school and residency training, and to engage in meaningful life-long learning? Should there be additional goals and expectations for our students in the post-clerkship curriculum that go beyond acquisition of knowledge and procedural skills? To the extent that many proposed solutions to counter the “problem” of the post-clerkship curriculum focus almost exclusively on preparation for residency, we fear that our graduates will increasingly become narrower in their scope of practice and will fail to gain perspectives so vital to functioning effectively as a healthcare team member.

To address these pressing issues, the focus of the Millennium Conference 2015 will be to discuss the post-clerkship curriculum and to consider curricular reform to better prepare our medical school graduates for residency.
II. Background on the Millennium Conference Series

The Carl J. Shapiro Institute for Education and Research at Harvard Medical School and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center has sponsored eight working conferences since 2000 to tackle important topics in medical education, ranging from clinical education to patient safety to critical thinking to high value care.

The format of these conferences, which includes a combination of plenary sessions, small inter-institutional working groups, and the development of plans by school teams, has proven particularly effective in addressing topics of national importance and has led to multiple peer-reviewed publications including consensus recommendations, multi-center collaborations, and research.

The conference is a wonderful opportunity for multi-institutional brainstorming and networking. Additionally, the format has allowed leaders within the same institution, who do not normally have an opportunity to strategize about challenges in teaching, to conduct intra-institutional, long-term planning that crosses the continuum of medical education.

Based on the success of the previous Millennium Conferences and the energizing role they have had for the participating medical schools, the Shapiro Institute and the AAMC are excited to host Millennium Conference 2015 to begin the work of determining the best ways to train our future physicians.

III. Millennium Conference 2015 on Transforming the Post-Clerkship Curriculum

Millennium Conference 2015 will involve 6-8 medical schools in the generation of ideas to reform the post-clerkship curriculum.

The goals of the conference are:

1. To determine a set of educational objectives medical students must reach to transition to residency training and beyond
2. To explore the types of clinical and classroom experiences that will solidify knowledge, stimulate curiosity, and prepare graduates to be self-directed, life-long learners
3. To stimulate local curriculum reform at participating institutions

Topics to be addressed include:

- What is the goal of the post-clerkship period and should it be uniform across medical schools?
- What are the opportunities for curricular innovation, assessment, and student advising in the post-clerkship period?
- How do we address the tension between structured required experiences and individualized approaches to the post-clerkship period?
- How do we take advantage of the fourth year to move students beyond a minimum threshold of competence?

IV. Participants

Each participating school will be asked to send a balanced team of four to five individuals to represent their medical school and its affiliated academic medical center. The team should comprise:

- an individual with oversight for undergraduate curriculum (e.g., pre-clinical or clinical curricular dean, chair of curriculum committee)
- an individual with leadership responsibilities in graduate medical education (e.g., designated institutional official, dean or vice president for GME, program director of a core residency program)
- the director of a required clinical 4th year rotation (e.g., medical sub-internship director)
- a dean of student affairs
A fifth member may attend as part of the institutional team. Recommendations include:

- a director of student evaluation
- an educational researcher
- a learner with leadership responsibilities over medical students (e.g., student body president, representative of a national student organization, chief resident in a major residency program).

V. Selection Criteria and Guidelines for the Letter of Interest

The letter of interest should describe briefly:

- your institution’s commitment to curricular innovation
- the status of current efforts at your institution to invigorate the post-clerkship curriculum
- specific challenges faced by your institution in revising the post-clerkship curriculum
- three questions you would like to see addressed at the conference

Selection of participants will be based on the elements above in addition to the quality of the team members (also see note below).

VI. Application Process

Your complete electronic application (submitted all at once) must include the following elements:

- Completed application cover sheet (downloadable at http://www.bidmc.org/medicaleducation)
- Letter of interest (no longer than two pages)
- Letter of support from the Dean of your medical school
- Brief biographical sketches of team members (no more than 1 page for each team member)

All application materials must be submitted in one email no later than 5:00 pm Eastern Time on Wednesday, February 4, 2015.

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TIMELINE

- Request for Applications mailed on November 10, 2014
- Proposals due by 5:00 pm Eastern Time on February 4, 2015
- Decision letters mailed around March 9, 2015.

VII. Attendance at the Conference

Lodging and all meals at the Babson Executive Conference Center will be covered by conference hosts. However, there is a $300 registration fee for each individual attending the conference to defray administrative costs. Transportation costs and the individual registration fee are to be paid by the institutions selected to participate.

Note: Participants applying for the Millennium Conference are expected to reserve the dates in their calendars until decision letters are sent. We consider team members’ roles and backgrounds of foremost importance during the selection process and in the subsequent assignment of inter-school working groups. Given the invitational nature of the conference, we reserve the right to decline a team’s participation after acceptance if an individual from that team is no longer able to attend.