IMAGINE THE FUTURE

The practice environment of the future physician will be different than it is today. M.D. Curriculum Transformation is answering this question: What will society need from physicians and health care professionals over the next 20 to 30 years?

OHSU is ranked #3 in the nation for excellence in primary care education and #5 in the nation for excellence in family medicine education by US News and World Report.

One-third of all Oregon physicians completed all or part of their training at OHSU.

About 70% of our entering class is Oregonian; 46% of graduates chose primary care as a specialty in 2012 (recent national comparator is about 35%).

The American Medical Association states: “Across the continuum of physician education, the gap between how physicians are trained and the future needs of our health care system continues to widen.”

OHSU is boldly acting to change the future health care landscape. This is a multi-year collaborative process with significant faculty, student, alumni, health system partners, community and patient involvement.

The M.D. curriculum transformation process will make OHSU an even better medical school and will provide innovative and knowledgeable physician-leaders aligned with Oregon's health care future. It will build on what is successful in our current curriculum.

Throughout this process, our commitment to primary care, rural Oregon and underserved communities will be – as it has always been – unshakable; this commitment has been a defining feature of the medical school for 125 years. A transformed M.D. curriculum will enhance that commitment by identifying new and innovative educational opportunities for students to focus on underserved communities.

As part of this initiative, we are discussing expanding the number and type of student rotations outside of Portland – a broader menu of electives may better engage students in underserved service; topics currently being discussed include:

- Interprofessional rural rotations with Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners and others
- Creative use of technology, such as telemedicine rotations
- Adding more specialties to underserved rotations
- Adding rotations in other underserved communities (low-income, cultural barriers, etc.)
- Identifying new clerkship sites and partnerships in rural Oregon

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SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Oregon Health & Science University
WHAT WILL SOCIETY NEED?

Frequently asked questions about M.D. Curriculum Transformation

**Why transform the M.D. curriculum?**
The health care landscape is changing. The School of Medicine’s goal is to boldly and innovatively bridge the growing divide between how physicians are trained and this future landscape. Producing physicians able to help create and be successful in a sustainable high-quality and accessible health care system is our responsibility to Oregon and beyond.

**Is there something wrong with the existing M.D. curriculum?**
No. The current curriculum is strong and produces exceptional graduates. However, in this rapidly changing environment, our responsibility is to look forward and ask what society will need from us in the future, to imagine the future. This initiative builds on our existing strong curriculum.

**Are other medical schools doing this too?**
Many, if not most, medical schools across the country are in some phase of curriculum transformation. Like OHSU, the community of academic medicine acknowledges and embraces its leadership role on this topic.

**Is curriculum transformation linked to the construction of the Collaborative Life Sciences Building (CLSB)?**
No. The Curriculum Transformation initiative would take place even without the CLSB. However, the new building provides an important opportunity to consider our future curriculum with this state-of-the-art facility in mind. The new facility offers opportunities for many kinds of learning and teaching approaches, as well as interprofessional interactions.

**What is the timeline?**
The School of Medicine intends to implement the new curriculum with the class entering in 2014. The plan is to continue the process such that full implementation will require four years.

**How will OHSU know if the new curriculum is effective?**
As part of the Curriculum Transformation process, benchmark metrics will be identified to measure short- and long-term success.

**What do OHSU students think of this initiative?**
Students – like all of us – understand that the external environment is rapidly changing. And student input is crucial to the success of this initiative. Student input is being provided through a number of channels – focus groups, participation in the all-school kickoff retreat, as members of the working groups, as members of the curriculum committee and through regular student leadership meetings with deans and other school leaders. We’ve also sought input from recent graduates of our M.D. program, who provide a unique and timely perspective on their educational experience.

**OHSU is nationally known for primary care education. Will that change?**
No. Throughout this change process, our commitment to primary care, rural Oregon and underserved communities will be – as it has always been – unshakable; this commitment has been a defining feature of the medical school for 125 years. A transformed M.D. curriculum will enhance that commitment by identifying new and innovative educational opportunities for students to focus on underserved communities.

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