

DOCS

Directors of Clinical Skills Courses

Developing clinical skills excellence in tomorrow's physicians



Summer 2020 Newsletter

President's Message:

Hello DOCS Members,

Throughout this most challenging time, I have continually marveled at and felt immense pride in our DOCS community. We have risen up and inspired each other to create innovative teaching strategies and delivery methods that enable us to accomplish that which we care so deeply about-ensuring the vital clinical skills we hold dear are passed on to this next generation of healers. We have leaned on each other through a robust listserv discussion which led to quickly initiated and enthusiastically attended Zoom teaching and learning sessions for the sharing of new practices, whether it be observing our students examine stuffed teddy bears in their homes over video conference or teaching the physical exam in-person, fully gowned and masked. We are also embracing the opportunity to educate ourselves more fully to be able to lead an anti-racist-based model of clinical skills education through the sharing of best practices and creation of new ones. Over these past few months, each DOCS member has proven that this valuable community is critical to our individual work as we each have been asked to step up and lead in uncharted territory at our home institutions. As we move into the fall semester, I feel sure that the collaborative spirit and passion we share for the teaching of clinical skills as members of DOCS will carry us and our students to success at our individual universities and hospitals. This momentum will also lead us to a meaningful and memorable first virtual annual meeting this November on our DOCS 10th Anniversary. DOCS' spirit and energy will propel us to new heights as we continue our powerful Workshop series, listserv sharing, strong DOCS committee work, the welcoming and mentoring of new DOCS members, the updating of our website, our individual and collaborative scholarly efforts, and strategic planning into the next 10 years.

My thanks go out to each DOCS member for contributing to this rich community!

*Sharon Obadia
President, DOCS*

Program Planning Committee Update:

The DOCS Program Planning Committee has been busy adapting the annual meeting format and content to the virtual world. And, our DOCS members have been making this new format a success by presenting their work in showcase presentations and joining collaborative breakout sessions to dive deeper into sharing logistics, resources, as well as successes and challenges. Please do peruse the [DOCS website Members Area Meeting Content](#) where the session recordings and resources are being located. We hope you are finding the early sessions useful, and we welcome your feedback and suggestions.

As a look ahead for the rest of the summer and into the fall, we are prioritizing staged delivery of content to address topics of immediate concern to clinical skills course directors such as strategies for remote clinical skills instruction and assessment and mitigating bias and addressing racism within clinical skills curricula.

Here are few items to put on your calendars:

- DOCS Member Town Hall with the Clinical Skills Evaluation Collaboration, which administers the USMLE 2 CS.
[August 3, 2020 from 1200-1300 EDT](#)

Please mark your calendars for this opportunity to hear from and share your thoughts about clinical skills assessment with Chris Feddock, MD (CSEC Executive Director) and Jessica Salt, MD (Assistant Vice President, CSEC Assessments)

- Throughout the early fall, DOCS will also be hosting its traditional Workshop sessions in the virtual space. We'll be calling on members to lead these sessions.
- **Save the dates of [November 12th](#) and [13th](#) for the culmination of our DOCS Annual Meeting with:**
 - Our Remote Networking Happy Hour: [Thursday, November 12th](#)
 - The 10 Years of DOCS: A Brief Look Back...A Visionary Look Ahead meeting:
[Friday, November 13th from 1100-1400 EST](#)
 - Founding DOCS President, Matthew Mintz, MD, will kick off the celebration with a look at DOCS over the past ten years along with a look ahead.
 - Our Keynote Plenary Speaker, Alicia Fernandez, MD, will speak with our group about "Disparities, Diversity, and Clinical Skills Education".
 - We will also be conducting our annual business, committee, and interest group meetings.

DOCS 2020 Remote Meeting: Call for Workshop Series Presenters

The Program Planning Committee is pleased to announce this call for its 2020 Remote Meeting Workshop Series Presenters.

For those of you who are new to DOCS Workshops, and as a reminder for experienced meeting participants and presenters, our organization emphasizes multi-institutional collaboration in its workshops and therefore sends a call for presenters to join pre-defined workshops rather than sending a general call for individual presentations. We hope that you will consider lending your expertise to one of these workshops.

You may express interest in multiple Workshops; our Program Planning Committee will prioritize broad member participation in creating the final workshop teams.

If you have interest and experience in one or more of workshop topics and would like to join a multi-institutional team in the development and delivery of a workshop for DOCS members please consider ranking one or more of these workshops by completing the survey below by **August 7, 2020 at 5p EDT**.

- **Special Concurrent Session September 14, 2020 from 1200-1330 EDT**
 - Building an Anti-Racist Clinical Skills Curriculum
 - Details to Follow
- **Concurrent Session A September 25, 2020 from 1200-1330 EDT**
 - **Workshop 1:** Pearls for Success as a New Course Director
 - **Workshop 2:** Checklists/rubrics and standard-setting for school-level clinical skills assessments
 - **Workshop 3:** Advanced Communication Skills - General Principles and Specific Applications (Breaking Bad News, End of Life, Code Conversations)
- **Concurrent Session B October 12, 2020 from 1200-1330 EDT**
 - **Workshop 1:** Clinical Skills Scholarship
 - **Workshop 2:** Longitudinal Approach to Clinical Skills in the Covid Era-determining competency for clerkships
- **Concurrent Session C October 29, 2020 from 1200-1330 EDT**
 - **Workshop 1:** Clinical Reasoning: Transition from pre-clerkship to clerkship Skills
 - **Workshop 2:** Implementing Clinical Skills Collaborative Feedback in the Remote Learning Environment (standardizing peer-to-peer, faculty-to-student, and longitudinally applied feedback)
 - **Best of Clinical Skills Literature 2020 Presented by Research Committee**

Survey Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QFGZKY6>

Survey Opens: July 27, 2019

Survey Deadline: August 7, 2020 by 5pm EDT

Workshop Teams Announced: August 17, 2020 by 5pm EDT

Treasurer Update:

- **Current amount in DOCS accounts:** \$40,503.21
- **Income from 2019 annual meeting:** \$41,554.20
- **Expenses from 2019 annual meeting:** \$33,700.28
- **Net gain from 2019 annual meeting:** \$7,853.92
- Executive committee voted on 7/17/20 to invest \$12,000 into a mutual fund in order to grow savings in an effort to further fund DOCS research.

GEA Representatives Updates:

Hello DOCS members,

We hope all of you have been doing well through these past few trying months. With the unprecedented challenges this year, we have had to be creative and quickly adapt to changes in patient care and teaching.

We were hoping to see you at the GEA meetings, however with the pandemic, we look forward to the time when we will all gather together in person again. Even in the age of COVID -19, there has been a variety of rich DOCS programming to support members and bring us together to address many of the curricular challenges we are all facing. There are more fantastic programs to come with our DOCS annual meeting going virtual throughout the fall, so stay tuned!

This organization, like its members, is resilient. Please check our website, post on the listserv, reach out to your GEA reps and other members if there are needs you have to support the work you do. Most importantly, take care of yourselves and stay well.

Sarah Yonder, CGEA representative
Robin Ovitsh, NGEA representative
Gregory Harlan, WGEA representative
Lisa Bernstein, SGEA representative

Nominating Committee Updates:

Dear DOCS members,

Every year we have an election and we will be running our 2020 election late this Summer. These elections are a great opportunity for members to be more involved.

We have three positions open this year.

- President-Elect
- Treasurer
- Northeast Region Representative

- Southern Region Representative

Here are descriptions of the open positions:

President-Elect

The President-Elect shall serve in the place of the President when necessary and shall also serve as a member of the Executive Council. The President shall be responsible for initiating action on business important to the organization, and consulting with any member of the organization to facilitate the orderly conduct of the organization's business. The President shall prepare the agenda and preside at meetings of DOCS and its Executive Council. The President or his/her designee will represent DOCS in the conduct of business with other national organizations or agencies important to the goals of DOCS. The President-Elect shall serve a 1-year term, followed by 1 year as President, then 1 year as Past-President for a total of 3 years. He or she shall not be eligible for re-nomination as an elected officer until out of office at least one year. The President, either at the time of, or any time prior to their nomination, shall have served as a member of the Executive Council.

Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be authorized to collect the dues and to disburse the funds of the organization in accordance with directives and policies established by the Executive Council and in the DOCS bylaws. The Treasurer shall maintain the bank account, prepare the annual budget and recommend the dues structure for review and approval by the Executive Council. The Treasurer shall also file the appropriate annual return with the Internal Revenue Service as required for a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. The Treasurer shall ensure an annual review of the organization's finances, which will be presented to the membership either at the annual business meeting or electronically. The Treasurer shall serve a two-year term on the Executive Council. They shall be eligible for re-nomination for an additional two-year term, a maximum of four years. The Treasurer, at the time of or any time prior to their nomination, shall have served either: a) as a member of the Executive Council, or b) as a member of a DOCS committee (e.g. Program Planning, Research, Membership, Technology, Nominating, and Advocacy).

Southern and Northeast Region Representatives

There are four regional representatives (Northeast, South, Central, and West). They are responsible for communicating important regional GEA information and activities back to the Executive Council. They shall also assist with identifying potential new members for DOCS and promoting DOCS activities within their region.

Each of the four must come from a school in the specific AAMC GEA region they are elected to represent. In addition, Regional Representatives shall attend and represent the DOCS organization at their respective GEA regional conference. The regional reps are general members of the Executive Council and therefore are elected by the full DOCS membership (not just by members of the region they represent). The Executive

Council meets monthly by video conference and Regional Representatives are expected to participate. Regional Representatives shall serve two-year terms on the Executive Council and shall be eligible for re-nomination for an additional two-year term, a maximum of four years. The northeast region representative position is open to any member from any school in the AAMC's NEGEA region. The southern region representative position is open to any member from any school in the AAMC's SEGEA region.

If you are interested in running, please send me the information below by [midnight Eastern Time on August 15th](#).

- 1) Full Name; Degrees; Principal Academic & Hospital Titles/Roles; Name of School
- 2) A profile picture
- 3) A Letter (not to exceed 250 words for regional rep and 500 words for treasurer and president-elect) indicating:
 - a) position being sought
 - b) qualifications
 - c) reasons for wanting to run for office.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Lisa Auerbach MD, MS-HPed

DOCS Nominating Committee Chair

lauerbach@med.cuny.edu

Membership & Mentorship Committee Updates

In these strange times, we all whether we are new to the role or experienced, need someone to brain storm ideas and talk over issues. We are trying to reinvigorate our Mentor-Mentee program. If you want a mentor or can volunteer to be a mentor, please complete this form https://hofstra.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bjcXyuhGfOMikuN indicating your interests and needs so we can match you. See what magic can happen when two DOCS members meet virtually!

Research Committee Updates

- A portion of the research committee has created a survey regarding the pedagogy, resources, and assessment of communication and interpersonal skills (CIS) medical education that will be distributed in early September to Course Directors of clinical skills courses or DOCS institutional representatives. This survey will be the first of its kind in over 25 years and will address many of the public health issues of this millennium as well as the medical education response to the Covid pandemic.

- The DOCS Journal Watch has resumed beginning this July 2020. Abstracts from notable articles regarding clinical skills education from medical education journals will be posted on the DOCS website.