

The Integrated Medical Curriculum (IMC)

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE IMC

The following goals and objectives for the Integrated Medical Curriculum, based on those promulgated by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), have been adopted by the School of Medicine faculty:

1. To Produce Knowledgeable Physicians

- Knowledge of the theories and principles that govern ethical decision making, and of the major ethical dilemmas in medicine, particularly those that arise at the beginning and end of life, those that arise from the knowledge of genetics, and those that threaten medical professionalism posed by conflicts of interest inherent in various financial and organizational arrangements for the practice of medicine.
- Knowledge of the normal structure and function of the body and of each of its major organ systems.
- Knowledge of the molecular, biochemical, and cellular mechanisms that are important in maintaining the body's homeostasis.
- Knowledge of the various causes (genetic, developmental, metabolic, toxic, microbiologic, autoimmune, neoplastic, degenerative, and traumatic) of maladies and the ways in which they operate in the body (pathogenesis).
- Knowledge of the altered structure and function (pathology and patho-physiology) of the body and its major organ systems that are seen in various diseases and conditions.
- An understanding of the power of the scientific method in establishing the causation of disease and efficacy of traditional and non-traditional therapies.
- Knowledge of the most frequent clinical, laboratory, roentgenologic, and pathologic manifestations of common maladies.
- Knowledge about relieving pain and ameliorating the suffering of patients.
- Knowledge of the important non-biological determinants of poor health and of the economic, psychological, social, and cultural factors that contribute to the development and/or continuation of maladies.
- Knowledge of the epidemiology of common maladies within a defined population and the systematic approaches useful in reducing the incidence and prevalence of those maladies.
- Knowledge of various approaches to the organization, financing, and delivery of health care.

2. To Produce Skillful Physicians

- The ability to obtain an accurate medical history that covers all essential aspects of the history, including issues related to age, gender, and socio-economic status.
- The ability to perform both a complete and a focused examination, including a mental status examination.
- The ability to perform routine technical procedures including, at a minimum: venipuncture, inserting an intravenous catheter, arterial puncture, thoracentesis, lumbar puncture, inserting a nasogastric tube, inserting a Foley catheter, and suturing lacerations.

- The ability to interpret the results of commonly used diagnostic procedures.
- The ability to reason deductively in solving clinical problems.
- The ability to construct appropriate management strategies (both diagnostic and therapeutic) for patients with common conditions (both acute and chronic), including medical, psychiatric, and surgical conditions, and those requiring short- and long-term rehabilitation.
- The ability to recognize patients with immediately life-threatening cardiac, pulmonary, or neurological conditions regardless of etiology, and to institute appropriate initial therapy.
- The ability to recognize and outline an initial course of management for patients with serious conditions requiring critical care.
- The ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with patients, patients' families, colleagues, and others with whom physicians must exchange information while carrying out their responsibilities.
- The ability to identify factors that place individuals at risk for disease or injury, to select appropriate tests for detecting patients at risk for specific diseases or in the early stages of disease, and to determine strategies for responding appropriately.

3. **To Produce Physicians Possessing Professional Attitudes**

- An understanding of, and respect for, the roles of other health care professionals, and of the need to collaborate with others in caring for individual patients and in promoting the health of defined populations.
- Compassionate treatment of patients, and respect for their privacy and dignity.
- Honesty and integrity in all interactions with patients, patients' families, colleagues, and others with whom physicians must interact in their professional lives.
- A commitment to advocate at all times the interests of one's patients over one's own interest.
- A commitment to provide care to patients who are unable to pay and to advocate for access to health care for members of traditionally underserved populations.

4. **To Produce Physicians Committed to Lifelong Learning**

- The capacity to recognize and accept limitations in one's knowledge and clinical skills, and a commitment to continuously improve one's knowledge and ability.
- An understanding of the need to engage in lifelong learning to stay abreast of relevant scientific advances, especially in the disciplines of genetics and molecular biology.
- The ability to retrieve (from electronic databases and other resources), manage, and utilize biomedical information for solving problems and making decisions that are relevant to the care of individuals and populations.