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## M.D. Program Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes

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**Date:** February 20, 2026

**Time:** 3:01 PM – 4:28 PM

**Chaired by:** Dr. Jeffrey LaRochelle

**Voting members present:** Drs. Carrazana, Castiglioni, Dexter, Gros, Khan-Assad, Mehta, Piazza, and Slimani; (M1) Kelley, (M1) Tammaro, and (M2) Rodriguez

**Attendees:** Drs. Arenas Morales, Beg, Bradshaw, Dil, Hernandez, Kauffman, Kibble, Selim, Smith, Restrepo, and Tolentino; Ms. Berry, Ms. Borges, Ms. Corsi, Ms. Garcia, Ms. Gillum, Mr. Voorhees, and Ms. Walton

### Consent Agenda – Dr. LaRochelle

- Members approved of the meeting minutes for January 16, 2026.

### M1/M2 Subcommittee – Dr. Kauffman

- Members approved of the *Final PER for IS-5*: The proposal recommends replacing the standard PER format in IS-5, the final course of the pre-clerkship phase, with a Capstone Reflection. This culminating experience will allow students to synthesize feedback received across all prior PERs and reflect on their overall development in collaborative practice.
- Members approved of the *M1/M2 Course and Exam Calendar for AY 2026-27*: All the courses in the pre-clerkship years are in the same order and length of time as it occurred in the AY 2025-26, it just places it in the new calendar.
- There was a request to consider adding a week to IS-2 at the end of the year. The reason for the request is to allow more time for GI where the comprehension is the strongest, while a more permanent solution is found moving forward. Another reason for this request is that there is a full week at the end of May that exists between the end of the current IS-2 and Memorial Day. The committee recommended extending the academic year to the weekend before Memorial Day to be used for either vacation time or curriculum time.

### M3/M4 Subcommittee – Dr. Arenas Morales

- The following course proposals were approved by members.
  - *Academic Psychiatry*: Nemours Children’s Hospital and Behavioral Health Division were added to this current elective.
  - *Acting Internship in Internal Medicine*: HCA Florida North Florida Hospital was added to the current acting internship.

- *Clinical Cardiology*: Central Florida Heart Care was added to the current elective.
- *Programming for Biomedical Data Science with Python*: This is a 4-week M4 elective that is a hands-on Python course using Google Colab to analyze and visualize biomedical data; covers programming basics, control flow, data structures, Numpy, Pandas, and visualization.

## PES Subcommittee – Dr. Castiglioni

- Members approved of the following *2025-26 Foundations Recommendations*.

### PES recommendations to Course Director:

- Course faculty to work with the director of programmatic assessment to improve TBLs and final exam as far as scoring and quality of questions. This includes adjusting the final MCQ exam as needed to comply with the new curriculum policies.
- Course director to work with the course faculty to better align material with expectations for a first semester medical student in a Foundations course and with explicit course objectives. Faculty development could provide sessions on cognitive load and what aspects of teaching can increase unwanted load.
- Course faculty to review topics/diseases in pathology/histology and genetics to address material that may be taught at a higher cognitive level than is necessary for the Foundations course and consider removing these topics or enhancing self-directed learning on these topics. For example, begin with normal histology (foundational) before introducing pathology, with limited exposure to pathology until integrated systems courses.
- Continue ongoing improvement in clarity of written expectations and as they apply to specific learning objectives in all areas of the course.
- Continue ongoing reassessment of the best ways, including scheduling, to utilize ScholarRx bricks and ensure the bricks are clearly aligned with the course learning objectives.
- Continue ongoing improvement to ensure all assessments in each domain (basic sciences, clinical sciences, and health systems sciences) have a clear rubric with a rationale for points.
- Continue to work on in-progress PES recommendations from AY 24-25.

### Recommendations to CCom related to Foundations Course:

- Support for a new course director as well as other potential vacancies as listed in Challenges portion.
- Faculty development sessions should be developed and targeted to help faculty.
- FCC room 417 is available for discussion meetings for courses. If you are interested, please reach out to Mr. Voorhees. Lunch will be provided.

## **CREATe Task Force – Dr. Castiglioni**

- **Members approved of the *Clerkship Objectives*:** The objectives of the required M3 clerkships were developed by the Development and Implementation Working Group of the CREATE Task Force, with input from clerkship directors and faculty during the M3/M4 Curriculum Retreat. The objectives are aligned with the new transformed Educational Program Objectives, with a plan for implementation in AY 26-27.

## **Student Updates**

- M1s: Overall, students are doing well.

## **Announcements/Updates – Dr. LaRochelle**

- The new required clinical encounter for the psychiatry clerkship was approved via electronic vote on January 21, 2026.
- UCF COM responded to a letter from HSS secretary RFK regarding the Nutrition curriculum. Currently, our curriculum has more than what they are looking for integrated into the curriculum. The course directors will be asked to review the curriculum and identify where these concepts are integrated within the curriculum. As one of the Champion schools, UCF COM has been invited to attend the HHS Nutrition Education event in Washington, DC in March. Dr. Pasarica and another UCF COM representative have been invited to attend.
- This will be the last meeting that will be chaired by Dr. LaRochelle. Dr. Castiglioni will chair the March meeting.

## **Action Items**

- No action items.