

From the Desk of the Founding Dean

LCME VISIT IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

The task of preparing the first four-year medical school on a U.S. border for LCME accreditation is huge. With less than a week to go before the LCME site visit, we commend the team of devoted faculty and staff for staying the course. We're almost there with...

- 15 of 34 Basic Scientists and Clinical Medical Educators already hired.
- 6 of 27 Clinical Faculty on board.
- Critical data for Admissions, Curriculum and Recruitment complete.
- Copy and design of printed materials and website being finalized.
- Training exercises complete, and our team is in top form.

The caliber of basic scientists and clinical faculty that have pledged their expertise and energy to the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine is extraordinary.

As a family of professionals, it was a goal while recruiting prospects, that we find individuals that would strike a balance once introduced into our existing team. It is apparent that our latest additions will invigorate a campus that has raised some of us from the time we were just out of diapers. (Yes, I am a pediatrician by heart!) And on the other hand, we 'oldies but goodies' will provide the insight of many years spent living on the border to individuals ready and willing to soak it all in.

Dr. Darryl Williams, Dr. Brian Tobin, and Dr. David Steele have spent countless hours analyzing and coordinating our curriculum for the LCME visit - and more importantly, for our future students. The curriculum will continue to focus on our traditional strengths, designed around clinical case presentations, taking into account cultural sensitivities found only on the border. Many of you have taken part in training exercises meant to acquaint you to this method of teaching - and we are pleased to share that everyone has passed with flying colors.

After the site visit, we will expedite the recruitment of researchers that possess the potential to place this medical school on the map with their aggressive pursuit for answers and cures to diabetes, TB, cancer - and many other diseases associated with the border.

Upon accreditation in February, our focus will shift to recruiting the students through the Texas Medical and Dental School Application Service. The design and copy for printed materials that will be used throughout the recruitment process, along with a user-friendly website, are in their final phases. Forty of the finest students that apply will comprise our first four-year class in August of 2009.

I am confident that the November 11 - 13 site visit will go down as one of our finest moments. But in this case - numerous individuals have nurtured this institution for almost 35 years, so it could rise to its fullest potential. It is an honor to be here, making sure that this school's destiny is met.