



Program Reports 2020-21

MD Program Report

Submitted by Dr. Carla Garcia, Director, MD Program

Over the past year, the COVID pandemic continued to shape our curriculum delivery for clerkship. This has allowed us to reflect upon aspects of learning that are best suited in a virtual environment as opposed to in person. The net result has been at times challenging but ultimately a very productive learning process in which our students have been partners. In the coming year, we will use this hard won learning to deliver our curriculum across multiple platforms.

In response to the COVID pandemic, we have been able to innovate and pioneer new approaches in learning and assessment in the MD Program. This year we established new assessment blueprint for the Psychiatry Clerkship Mastery Exercise which aligns with the MCC Physician Activities, a new Assessment Subcommittee that reviews the quality of all items in a clerkship mastery exercise, and fully implemented Clinical Decision Making (CDMs) Questions. We are the first clerkship course in the MD program to accomplish this. Among other things, this has resulted in a significant increase in the statistical reliability of our written assessment. Currently we are playing a key role in faculty development for all other clerkship courses as they develop their own blueprints and integrate CDMs Questions into their assessments. Additionally, we have worked to increase the fidelity of simulation into the preclerkship clinical skills curriculum. Dr. Mitesh Patel's group has embarked on a scholarship to further evaluate this curricular change.

Our team of committed undergraduate teachers has grown to accommodate this rapidly changing portfolio. Dr. Chloe Leon has been appointed as the new Assistant Director of Undergraduate Education and will be leading our curriculum renewal project. This process will be focused on curriculum alignment and better integration with the entire MD Program Curriculum. We will use this opportunity to embed themes of inclusivity and intersectionality as this new curriculum is developed. Additionally, given our increased reliance on virtual modalities of education, a role for digital education lead was developed and Dr. Ahmed Hassan has been appointed to this role. Finally, in the context of the recent innovation in the undergraduate psychiatry portfolio, a new role of education scholarship lead in undergraduate psychiatry was established. Dr. Vanessa Thoo has been appointed to this role.

These are truly exciting and challenging times. As is often the case, this represents opportunities to innovate and grow. Our team is excited to be part of the development of our future physicians who rise to those challenges.

