

**ADVISORY GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION COUNCIL (AGMEC)**

**Thursday, June 25, 2009**

**11:00 a.m.**

**Room 301, UMDNJ—Stanley S. Bergen Building  
Newark, NJ**

**Voting Members Present:**

Thomas Bojko, MD, MS, Chairperson

Robert Bowen, Executive Director of NJ Assoc. of Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons, representative of Susan Volpicella-Levy, DO,

Richard Goldstein, MD, NJ Council of Teaching Hospitals

Robert Johnson, MD, Interim Dean, UMDNJ-NJMS

Ronald Lockman, Public Member (via telephone)

Betsy Ryan, President & CEO, New Jersey Hospital Association (via telephone)

Rick Scott, MD, Immediate Past President of the Medical Society of NJ (via telephone)

Dr. Sensakovic, representative of Dr. B. Shulman, Seton Hall University, School of GME

**Staff Members Present:**

Sarah Darrow, Esq, Deputy Attorney General

Carol Socha, UMDNJ

Tom Hagaman, representative of Marguerite Beardsley, Commission on Higher Education

**Guests:**

Peter A. Gross, MD, Sr. Vice President & Chief Medical Officer, Hackensack University Medical Center

Anthony F. LaBue, Esq., representing St. George's University School of Medicine

Ihor S. Sawczuk, MD, Chairman, Dept. of Medical Education, Hackensack University Medical Center

Stephen Weitzman, MD, Professor, Dept. of Medicine, St. George's University School of Medicine

Kyla Scarponi, DO (via telephone) Awaiting Governor's appointment to AGMEC

**Voting Members Absent/Excused:**

Emmanuel Ashong, MD, Public Member

Brian Little, MD, President, Assoc. of Hospital Directors of Medical Education of NJ

**Non-Voting Members Absent/Excused:**

Cynthia Kirchner, NJ Dept. of Health & Senior Services

Sindy Paul, MD, President of the State Board of Medical Examiners

Stanley Schiff, DO, Commissioner of Human Services designee

Dr. Bojko, AGMEC Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. He announced that the meeting was called in accordance with the regulations of the State of New Jersey with regard to public meetings. Introductions were made around the table and via telephone of AGMEC members, staff and of those attending as guests. There was a quorum of voting members present, either in person or via teleconferencing.

A motion was made by Ms. Ryan to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2009 meeting, motion seconded by Dr. Sensakovic. Motion approved unanimously by the committee.

Dr. Bojko said that he has received information that there are two universities in Poland interested in applying for clinical clerkships in New Jersey. Both schools have been certified by the U. S. Department of Education and have undergone the rigorous review from New York and California where they are also approved. The universities are: Medical University of Lublin, Lublin, Poland and Medical University of Silesia, Katowice, Poland. Dr. Jerry Jacob represents both universities. Dr. Bojko advised Dr. Jacob of the process to apply for clinical clerkships in NJ.

Drs. Goldstein and Johnson reported on the status of the sub-committees. Dr. Johnson is the Chair of the sub-committee working on developing a draft of a process for accreditation and the maintenance of accreditation of medical schools not accredited by LCME. The sub-committee members are:

Thomas Cavalieri, MD, UMDNJ, Dean, SOM  
David S. Kountz, MD, Sr. VP Medical & Academic Affairs  
Jersey Shore University Medical Center  
Sindy Paul, MD, NJ Dept. of Health & Senior Services

Dr. Goldstein is the Chair of the sub-committee working on clerkship approvals. Dr. Goldstein is still in the process of identifying members to this sub-committee. The sub-committees will report to the AGMEC Committee at the first meeting after the summer recess.

The main agenda discussed at this meeting was the request from St. George's University School of Medicine (SGUSOM) for approval of a new program of clinical clerkships at Hackensack University Medical Center (HUMC). All committee members received their information packets regarding this issue sent by Mr. LaBue—the representative of SGUSOM.

Dr. Bojko stated that through Mr. LaBue, SGUSOM sent us a letter of application for clinical clerkships at HUMC for third and fourth year students. Dr. Goldstein requested accurate data on the residents sited at HUMC. Dr. Sawczuk of HUMC stated that as of February, 2009, HUMC has 84 residents at its approved and accredited residency programs in the Core Programs; Medicine 26; Ob/Gyn

8; Pediatrics, 16; Surgery, 18; Psychiatry, 6. The Committee requested a breakdown of UMDNJ medical students who are already scheduled to be serving clerkships at HUMC in each specialty.

S. Darrow stated that, by state statute AGMEC has 90 days in which to consider the application and determine whether to request additional information. Following this meeting, a letter will be compiled requesting additional information and sent to Mr. LaBue. If there are still unresolved questions, another meeting will be scheduled. Dr. Bojko stated that he will compile the committee's information request into a letter to the applicant, using the minutes of this AGMEC meeting, and he asked the members what additional information they would need to consider to make a decision on the SGUSOM/HUMC application. Dr. Johnson had four areas of concern and requested Mr. LaBue put his reply in writing regarding the following points:

1. Clinical clerkship space at HUMC- maintaining the required ratio between medical residents and clinical clerkship students
2. UMDNJ/NJMS Residents to be used to provide clinical instruction to SGUSOM medical students
3. Whether the affiliation agreement between HUMC and SGUSOM needs NJMS approval because the accredited residency program at HUMC required under NJSC 18A:64-13(b)(3) is operated by NJMS.
4. Status of AGMEC moratorium on new programs

Mr. LaBue responded to the last point, stating that moratorium on new applications pre-dated the enactment of the AGMEC statute in 2003 and the current application must be considered under that new statute.

Dr. Bojko accepted a motion for the committee to convene in Closed Session (without guests) for legal advice.

Following the Closed Session, AGMEC reconvened in public session and the guests returned to the meeting.

It was stated that by statute, UMDNJ students at HUMC will still get preference in assignment to clinical clerkships and the SGUSOM/HUMC clinical program will not change this statutory preference..

Under NJSC 18A:64-13(b)(9), the ratio is 2 students per resident; and HUMC must ensure that the ratios are in accordance with the statute.

Dr. Bojko stated that a letter will be sent to Mr. LaBue within 90 days and then a site visit to HUMC will be scheduled. The letter will include requests for the following:

- Evidence of current Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organization accreditation for HUMC
- The average daily census of patients at HUMC in each clerkship area.
- How many students are currently in each of the core programs listed?
- Two Department Chairs of those listed in the application for Core Programs do not appear to have submitted current Board certifications.
- Specific electives for the 4<sup>th</sup> Year clinical clerkship program – AGMEC statute does not permit approval in the abstract – Department chairs must be board certified in the specialty area.
- Other information requests discussed at the meeting or suggested by Committee members which will allow for better evaluation and impact of the proposed program.

Dr. Bojko opened the meeting for public comment. Dr. Sawczuk, HUMC, stated the best education will be provided to medical students and will take every precaution ensuring all rules and regulations will be followed. Attending physicians as well as residents at HUMC will provide clinical instruction to SGUSOM clinical clerkship students.

Dr. Weitzman, SGUSOM, will ensure that there will be one medical resident for every two clinical clerkship students. He stated he would like to start the program in September 2009 and requests the AGMEC Committee to give an answer by July 2009; otherwise, students will not be graduating as scheduled.

Dr. Gross reassured the Committee there are 250 paid faculty, enough to teach the increased number of clinical clerkship students.

Mr. LaBue thanked the committee for the promptness in which this meeting was scheduled. He also requested that a decision be made soon so the program can begin in September. He requested that the program be granted provisional approval, with the AGMEC approval to become permanent after a site visit which would be conducted in the Fall 2009, while the program is up and running at HUMC.

Dr. Bojko stated that the Committee cannot commit to a timeline requested by Dr. Weitzman and Mr. Labue, as there was no mention of a request for such provisional approval in the application, but we will do our best to respond promptly to the application.

Dr. Goldstein made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dr. Sensakovic. The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.