Capstone Scholarship and Discovery Course

Mentoring/Advising Medical Students

Judy Savageau, MPH
and a panel of our departmental faculty

FMCH Fall Departmental Retreat; October, 2014
Objectives

- Brief Review of new CSD course
- Project timeline / criteria / ideas
- Advisor’s role / expectations
- Online course info / FAQs for advisors
- Examples of current CSD projects
- Panel presentations of FMCH Capstone advisors
- Q & A
CSD Course - Overview

- Graduation requirement for Class of 2016
- Build on a personal passion that existed prior to entering medical school or a new interest or knowledge gap
- Provide role models, mentorship, and guidance regarding careers that integrate research, service, teaching, and clinical service
- Enhance the culture of self-directed and peer group-fostered learning
- Address one of 6 competencies (physician as: clinical problem solver, scientist, professional, person, advocate, or communicator)
## CSD Course Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Timeline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduced</td>
<td>Fall of 1\textsuperscript{st} year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Idea(s)</td>
<td>Spring of 1\textsuperscript{st} year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Work with Learning Community mentor to refine project and identify advisor</td>
<td>Fall of 2\textsuperscript{nd} year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finalize project proposal and advisor</td>
<td>Spring of 2\textsuperscript{nd} year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Progress reports</td>
<td>Fall and Spring of 3\textsuperscript{rd} year</td>
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<td>Final Capstone report</td>
<td>Fall of 4\textsuperscript{th} year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Capstone presentation</td>
<td>Spring of 4\textsuperscript{th} year</td>
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Protected Student Time for Project Work

- Per the CSD website and information distributed to students, this is a sample of times allowed/suggested for working on a Capstone project...
  - Protected Monday afternoons in FOM1 and FOM2 years
  - Non-scheduled time throughout all four years
  - Summer between FOM1 and FOM2 years
  - 1-week Flexible Clinical Experiences (FCE) in the Core Clinical Experiences year
  - 1-month dedicated Capstone time in the AS year

FOM=Foundations of Medicine (years 1 and 2)
AS=Advanced Studies (year 4)
Project Criteria

- Address a clinical, basic science, public health or social problem or question that develops a student’s understanding of an area of their own interest related to medicine
- Map to at least one of the medical school’s education competencies
- Demonstrate student’s organizational, reasoning, analytical or production/creation skills
- Meet criteria re: goal clarity, adequate student preparation, appropriate methodology, collection of findings or creation of a product, effective presentation, and self-reflective critique
Project Criteria

- Students will adhere to required capstone course and project timelines and benchmarks throughout their four year academic medical education programs
- Submission of an end report and public presentation or other form of approved communication of project results
- External publication is not required!
Project Ideas

- Students are likely to develop a project stemming from:
  - An interest prior to entering medical school, or
  - An interest developed through one of many early experiences in medical school, including:
    - LPP practice experience
    - Summer student research program
    - Summer student community-based service learning program
    - Population Health Clerkship
    - UMMS-sponsored volunteer experience (e.g., free medical clinics)
    - Multi-cultural, rural health or research pathway
Finding the right advisor is crucial to the success of the Capstone project!

The Advisor’s role includes:

- Helping student focus the scholarly project to the time available
- Review and advise on brief progress reports designed to support student work over time
- Review project proposal and final project
- Provide scholarly resources (if needed)
- Assist with obtaining necessary approvals by regulatory bodies (e.g., IRB, if needed)
Advisor’s Role

- Support additional dissemination planning such as publication or conference presentation
- Provide valuable career guidance
- Participate in project forum and assessment at conclusion of the course

- UMass faculty appointment ‘required’; OUME will work to help advisors obtain a faculty appointment
- Role will vary from advisor to advisor because projects will roll out differently depending on competency being addressed and scope of project
- Estimated minimum time commitment of 15-18 hours over the course of 2 years
Advisor FAQs

- Who can participate as a Capstone Faculty Project Advisor?
- I'm excited to serve as a Capstone project advisor for a group of students, but am now confused about the amount of time it will take. *Have I really agreed to advise two individual projects?*
- I have been asked by two students in the same graduating class to serve as advisor for their individual Capstone projects. I’m happy to work with them both – but need to be sure you are aware of the multiple students.
- What does it mean if a first or second year student asks me to become their "Capstone Scholarship & Discovery Advisor"?
Advisor FAQs

- What if a student I have not worked with asks me to be their "Capstone Scholarship & Discovery Project Advisor"?
- What if a student asks me to be their "CO-Capstone Scholarship & Discovery Project Advisor"?
- What times are available for students to work on their Capstone scholarly project?
- What is expected of students for their Capstone project?
- How big is the project expected to be?
- Is this project expected to be something that is presentable at a regional meeting? A national meeting?
Project, Student and Advisor FAQs

The CSD website has lots of very useful information about the course, student expectations, and a number of detailed FAQs for students and faculty

Course website:
http://www.umassmed.edu/Content.aspx?id=171698

- Left navigation of site has:
  - links to Project, Student and Advisor FAQs
  - information on how to sign up to be an Advisor
- 40-50 page CSD Course Manual with lots of detailed information. Students are aware of this though may not go hunting…
Currently, 20-25 FMCH faculty are advising medical students in the class of 2016

Faculty are also signing up to advise class of 2017 students

Some projects are with individual students; some are student pairs (2-3 students permitted to work as a team)

Projects include clinical topics, medical education, community-service learning, health education, community outreach and needs assessments, and many more

Faculty include main campus, community health centers, and CWM (e.g., MassAHEC, Shriver, CHPR)
Examples of Current CSD Projects by FMCH Faculty

- Encouraging healthy eating at Worcester’s food pantries (Savageau, Saver, Haley)
- Understanding the legal and medical needs of refugees resettled in Worcester (Haley)
- DYS health education for incarcerated youth (Cashman)
- Elderly fall prevention outreach (Oleson, Cherala)
- Prescription opioid use (Martin, Baxter)
- Farm-to-clinic initiative at the FHCW (Gnazzo)
- Ghanaian healthcare outreach workshop series (Yarney/DPH)
- Furthering parent education in the Head Start organization (Winchester/AHEC)
- Physical diagnosis teaching videos for MS-I and MS-II students (Fournier)
- Working with adults with intellectual disabilities (Gabovitch/Shriver)
- Medical student exposure to friendships formed through the Best Buddies Program (Bonardi/Shriver)
- Quality of work life and physician satisfaction / MAFP (Adler)
- Fluoride FAQ to parents (Shields)
- Building an Advance Care Planning Program at UMass (Reidy)
- Veterans outreach in the ED (Runyan)
- Augmenting substance abuse education across the 4 years (Pugnaire)
Panel Presentations/Discussion

- Judy Savageau (student: Emily Coggins)
  - Integrative WooFood: Bringing WooFood back to medicine
- Sara Shields (student: Kayla Mahoney)
  - Fluoride FAQs for parents
- Erika Oleson (student: Aqib Chaudhry)
  - Educating elderly about falls
- Phil Fournier (students: Michael Hill and Sean Maloney)
  - Developing physical diagnosis teaching videos
- Melanie Gnazzo (students: Kathryn Bailey and Rachel Erdil)
  - Farm-to-Clinic initiative
Question and (Hopefully) Answers

- Questions?
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