



Medical Education and Research Grant Outcome Report

Name: Innovations in Medical Education

Principal Investigator: Susan Skochelak, MD, MPH

Department: Family Medicine

Program: Targeted

Grant Duration: 12-01-2004 to 06-30-2009 (55 months)

Expenditures: \$3,413,559 (100%)

Use of Funds (Taxonomy): Education

Research Keywords: Curriculum, cultural competence, distance education, assessment, public health, professionalism

► **Description:** The Innovations in Medical Education Program (IME) received funding in 2004 to:

- Plan and implement a new medical school curriculum
- Enhance the Clinical Skills Teaching and Assessment Center (CTAC)
- Establish statewide health care distance education

During the course of the project, the school began its transformation into a School of Medicine and Public Health. The IME program was integral in transforming the medical school curriculum and solidifying the UWSMPH's standing as a statewide resource.

► **Contributions/Results:** All three goals were achieved successfully.

There were two rounds of curriculum changes. The first focused on improving in three areas: professionalism, cultural competence, and population health. The new focus showed results. The Association of Medical Colleges Graduate Questionnaire showed that 2008 graduates rated the curriculum higher than their 2007 counterparts.

The second round was a broad redesign of the curriculum, striving to increase integration between courses and disciplines, enhance clinical prevention and population health throughout, and incorporate active learning opportunities. A new block structure has been implemented, with most blocks concluding with an integrating activity, to help students make connections across courses and increase their public health competencies.

The enhancing of CTAC provided a stronger standardized patient program to help train health professions students and community organizations. A major success was to more than double the number of standardized patients recruited from underrepresented groups, helping to improve cultural competency. More than 20 groups use CTAC's services, making it a valuable new resource for groups beyond campus.

An interdisciplinary Distance Education Advisory Committee developed a free video library to broadcast school-generated video content. SMPH events such as seminar series, ground rounds, guest speakers, course lectures, and select off-campus events are now widely available. Government and community health organizations have linked to Video Library. The SMPH's Physician Assistant Program uses it for distance learning purposes. Use of the video library has expanded consistently since it debuted in January 2007. In March 2009 there were nearly 52,000 visits.

► **Met Objectives:** Project complete

► **Timeline for Application of Results:** 3-5 years

► **New Partnerships or Collaborations:** None

► **Matched Dollars (cash or in-kind):** None

► **Dissemination:** More than 25 publications, abstracts, posters, and national presentations have helped broadcast the successes and next steps in developing a fully integrated curriculum.

► **Additional Funding:** In 2006, the National Institutes of Health awarded \$1.2M over five years to further enhance the curriculum initiatives of IME. MERC renewed funding for this program in 2009, providing \$2.5M over three years.