

**PRESIDENT'S MEMO**

**Michelle Daniel**  
DOCS President

DOCS was founded in 2011, with an aim to build a cohesive and productive national consortium of educators who direct clinical skills courses for medical students, to promote scholarship, establish best practices, and encourage the exchange of ideas across the continuum of clinical skills education. We have come a long way since our inception, and we continue to grow. This year, at our national meeting in Baltimore, we set our collective vision on two new goals: improving mentorship and scholarship within our organization. I am pleased to report that we now have more than 40 DOCS members who have become part of a mentor – mentee network. Each individual who requested a mentor has been aligned with two mentors with > 3 years experience as a clinical skills course leader. We recognize that every clinical skills course is unique, and by providing more than one mentor, we hope to offer an array of expertise that will meet everyone's varied needs. In regards to improving scholarship, we surveyed the membership for topic areas of interest, and the executive committee identified three priority areas to focus on this year: clinical skills assessment, faculty development, and clinical reasoning. Multi-institutional workgroups are currently being formed.

We are now busy planning the 6th annual DOCS meeting to be held in Seattle, Washington in conjunction with the AAMC. Based on attendee feedback from last year, we are aiming for a full day meeting. Sharon Obadia and her committee have been hard at work planning a day filled with workshops, discussion sessions, and opportunities to interact with other clinical skills course directors. I am excited to announce our plenary speaker this year will be Dr. Kelley Skeff. We look forward to seeing you all in Seattle!

**UPDATES FROM THE PROGRAM PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Sharon Obadia**  
Program Planning  
Subcommittee  
Chair

Hello from the DOCS Program Planning Committee! We are an energized committee that is already hard at work preparing an exciting 2016 Annual DOCS Meeting, which will be in conjunction with the AAMC Conference in Seattle, WA this year. While we await final word on the exact date and time of our meeting, we are planning a call for topics in the near future for all DOCS members to contribute ideas for session topics and topics for a new format or "Showcase" in which we will invite DOCS members to present how various aspects of clinical skills teaching and assessment are implemented at their home institutions.



**Adina Kalet** (DOCS 2015 Keynote Speaker) and **Stan Massie** (DOCS Past President)

## UPDATES FROM THE DOCS RESEARCH SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR

Members of the DOCS Research Committee have been hard at work creating the first of what we hope will be regular surveys of all DOCS members on topics relevant to clinical skills educators and the broader medical education community. For two years a group under the leadership of Toshi Uchida has been working on this first survey – how the physical exam is taught across medical schools in the U.S. We are pleased to announce that we now have a cornucopia of results, from fully 75% of all U.S. medical schools! This is due to the hard work of many in increasing DOCS membership and identifying institutional representatives. But this overwhelming response rate is in large part due as well to the generosity of those DOCS members and institutional reps who took the time to thoughtfully fill out their surveys. Kudos DOCS! Data analysis is ongoing and we all hope a manuscript is just a few months away. Already we are anticipating a second DOCS survey; likely on the status of clinical skills courses nationally (organization, pedagogy, structure, content, resources, etc.). More will be forthcoming on this project in the weeks and months ahead.



Ron Silvestri  
Research Chair

An idea spawned by the Research Committee a few years ago came to fruition at our national DOCS meeting in November. We had our first "Best of the Year in Clinical Skills Education Literature" Workshop. We appreciate all those who attended, and with their valuable feedback we hope this might become a regular popular feature of DOCS annual meetings.

One of our goals in this, my final year as chair of the committee, is to foster research collaborations between small groups of DOCS members on topics of mutual interest. Joanne Hojsak has volunteered to work with me and Todd Cassese to find ways we might use the DOCS website to facilitate these scholarly collaborations.

The Research Committee had a robust annual meeting at the DOCS national meeting in Baltimore in November, with 15 members in attendance. We are still looking for any volunteers to help assemble a book of clinical vignettes that teach physical diagnosis and clinical reasoning to pre-clerkship students. We have a publisher who would be very interested in such a text written by the members of DOCS. Please let me know if you're interested!

## UPDATES FROM THE DOCS NOMINATING SUBCOMMITTEE

In 2016, DOCS will choose a new President-Elect (must be a current or former members of Executive Council per our by-laws). Candidates will be solicited and selected during the summer and elections will be held in August/September in preparation for our Annual Meeting in November. Additionally, Felise Milan, the 2016-2017 President, will be appointing/reappointing Chairs for the following committees: Membership and Communications, Research, Advocacy and Advancement, and Nominating. Committee Chairs will start their terms at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting.



Wendy Madigosky  
DOCS Nominating  
Subcommittee  
Chair

## UPDATES FROM THE DOCS TREASURER



Toshi Uchida  
DOCS Treasurer

Last year DOCS was incorporated as an official 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization. We also opened a small business bank account and now have an easy way for people to pay us online through our website. The 2015 annual DOCS meeting in Baltimore set a new record with 145 attendees. Our overall income from the 2015 meeting fees was \$17,545.78 and our overall expenses for the 2015 meeting were \$13,293.07. Adding to our previous balance, DOCS currently has \$10,406.60 in the bank.



DOCS 2015 Annual Meeting



# Regional GEA Liaisons Page



Pam Shaw  
CGEA Liaison

CGEA meets in Ann Arbor Michigan on April 6-8, 2016. The SIG for DOCS is scheduled to meet at 11:45am on April 8th. As the CGEA representative for DOCS, I would like to have a session to meet other Directors of Clinical Skills and share information and resources. With the advent of EPA's and milestones, it will

be important to share work that is being done in our region and perhaps establish a quick way to disseminate work electronically so that great ideas can be shared. There are a number of interesting sessions at the meeting and debriefing what others have learned would be helpful also. I look forward to seeing everyone there!



We are very excited for the spring NEGEA meeting scheduled for next week, April 8-9, 2016 hosted by The Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown University. The meeting theme this year is "Across the Medical Education Continuum: Learning, Sharing, Innovating". Many of our very own DOCS members are presenting throughout the conference on various clinical skills related themes. Last year's DOCS special interest group (SIG) was well attended and we had a productive brainstorming session on topics of interest that helped guide the DOCS Program Planning Committee to create a successful DOCS Annual Meeting. I enthusiastically encourage all educators involved in the teaching of clinical skills in the Northeast Rejoin to join DOCS SIG this year, scheduled for Saturday, April 9th!



Robin "Rikki"  
Ovitch  
NEGEA Liaison

WGEA meets April 14-17 in Tucson, AZ. The DOCS Liaison is Heather Nye from UCSF.



Heather Nye  
WGEA Liaison



The SGEA 2016 annual meeting will be held on April 13-16, 2016, in Austin, Texas. It is being organized by the University of Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine. This year's theme is "Rebooting Medical Education - Sharing Curricular & Instructional Innovations". There are a great number of Oral Presentations, Small Group Discussions, and Workshops, as well as some outstanding plenary sessions that will provide a wide spectrum of educational opportunities for all. I am in the midst of creating a DOCS Special Interest Group (SIG), and even though it is not officially listed yet, we will have a table at Saturday's SIG Synergy Round Table session. I hope to meet other DOCS members to discuss areas of interest and collaboration between our schools. I encourage all who teach clinical skills to pass by. Here's to meeting new folks and to hearing some great music in Austin.



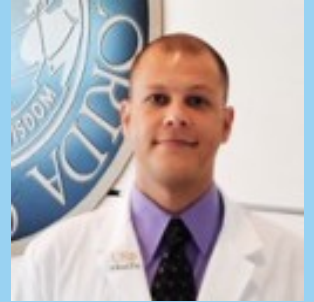
Paul Mendez  
SGEA Liaison



## Updates from the Advocacy and Advancement Subcommittee

As DOCS continues to rapidly grow as a community of dedicated educators, the goal of the Advocacy and Advancement Committee is to promote the DOCS organization and expand our representation within other organizations dedicated to medical education. We also continue to work diligently towards the goal of producing a DOCS position paper, outlining the roles, responsibilities, and expectations of pre-clerkship clinical skills course directors as well as the support needed for their mission. If any members are interested in participating, we would welcome their collaboration and encourage you to contact me at:

[decker1@health.usf.edu](mailto:decker1@health.usf.edu).



David Ecker  
Advocacy and  
Advancement  
Subcommittee  
Chair

## Updates from the Membership and Communications Subcommittee

I am thrilled to announce that we now have 408 registered DOCS members! Over the past year we have migrated to a new website (<http://www.directorsofclinicalskillscourses.com>) which allows potential members to easily join DOCS. We have created a DOCS email ([directorsofclinicalskills@gmail.com](mailto:directorsofclinicalskills@gmail.com)) that I monitor. We have also piloted the DOCS email list-serv using a technology from George Washington University (a big thank you to Matt Mintz for getting this up and running). We know the list-serv has had a few bumps, but I have really enjoyed getting to see the group communication on clinical skills topics. I continue to use mailchimp, a secure email service, for DOCS related communications. In addition, I am pleased to report that we were able to secure outstanding pricing for the next three years to continue to offer a meeting app through WHOVA for our annual meetings. If you have a passion for website design or an interest in growing our membership and/or meeting our communication needs, please contact me at: [todd.cassese@quinnipiac.edu](mailto:todd.cassese@quinnipiac.edu)



Todd Cassese  
Membership and  
Communications  
Subcommittee  
Chair



DOCS 2015  
Annual  
Conference

