



UNIVERSITY OF  
**SOUTH CAROLINA**

**SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**

**Columbia, SC**

**MD Curriculum Update and Outcomes**

**February, 2022**

# Initial Charge

- In 2017 Dean Hall appointed Drs. Caughman Taylor and Marlene Wilson to chair the Curriculum Innovation Task Force
- A recommendation derived from the strategic planning process the committee was charged with reviewing and making recommendations for updating the MD curriculum



# Recommendations

- Expand M-I orientation to 2 weeks with an emphasis on skill acquisition and clinical exposure
- Begin M-II classes 2 weeks earlier in late July
- Move physical diagnosis to the M-I year
- Create a new course to focus on developing a skill set to use the latest, best evidence in making care decisions (ACE)



# Recommendations

- Create a new course in Health Systems Science (HSS) to pull together existing content with new content in change management and social determinants of health
- Start the new curriculum in the Fall of 2020



# M-I Recommendations

- Combine Gross Anatomy, Histology, and the Neuroanatomy aspects of Neuroscience into 1 course in the fall semester
- Combine Biochemistry into 1 spring semester course
- Move Neuroscience to the M-II year



# M-II Recommendations

- Restructure all basic science courses into smaller interdisciplinary, organ system based blocks starting with a general principles block and finishing with an integrated infectious disease block
- Blocks would include: cardiovascular, renal, pulmonary, hematology, musculoskeletal, gastrointestinal, endo/repro and neuroscience



# M-II Curriculum

		Mid-July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
		General Principles	CV	Pulmonary	Renal	Hematology	MSK	GI	Endo/Repro	Neuro	Neuro	Integrated Block	Dedicated Study (CBSE and Step 1)
YEAR 2	System Blocks					Thanksgiving Break	Holiday Break					Break	
	ACE												
	Clinical Aspects												



# M-III Recommendations

- Expansion of orientation to 2 weeks
- Additional elective time





# M-IV Recommendations

- Expand Capstone for 1 to 4 weeks with a focus on transition to residency
- Move the interprofessional course (Transforming Health) from the spring of the M-I year to M-IV
- Increase number of 4-week electives from 3 to 4



# Implementation

- Overall most recommendations were or are in the process of being implemented
- The M-III recommendations were not accepted by the Curriculum Committee
- Modifications to the recommendations have and are being made to allow for scheduling issues, faculty availability, and actual time needed to cover the material



# Implementation Timeline

- Spring 2019: Physical diagnosis moved to the M-I year as part of ICM
- July 2020: M-I orientation expanded to 2 weeks with new instruction in mental health first aid, diversity and inclusion, learning skills, and clinical skills training



# Implementation Timeline

- August 2020: New M-I curriculum introduced
- HSS incorporated into ICM with new content areas (instead of being a separate course)
- Spring 2021: ACE introduced into the curriculum
- July 2021: New M-II curriculum introduced
- Spring 2022: Expanded Capstone and Transforming Health course begin



# Implementation Timeline

- Spring 2022: Remediation of a block is still a work in progress as is the integrated disease block
- Moving forward need to continue to focus on better integration of material and removal of redundancy when possible



# Additional Changes

- Gate exam eliminated when the Step 2 Clinical Skills exam was sunsetted
- Moved to computer based testing in the first 2 years
- All courses/blocks in the M-I and M-II years will become P/F beginning with the entering class of 2022



# Outcomes

- Moving physical diagnosis to M-I received positively
- Unanticipated adjustment for M-I's starting in the spring semester moving from one large course to multiple content laden courses
- While data is limited students needing to remediate M-I courses has decreased in the fall and increased in the spring



# Outcomes

- Starting M-II year 2 weeks early increased conflicts with students finishing summer projects and M-I orientation participation
- M-II General Principles block was content heavy, some students had difficulty adjusting coming back from summer break
- Overall students seemed pleased with better integration of material





# Outcomes

- While the M-I year retained a Fall and Spring Break, the M-II year lost Fall break, but ended up with the entire week of Thanksgiving off
- Given M-II classes started 2 weeks earlier this has made for a long semester with no breaks
- M-II's do however have a “weekend break” at the end of each block



# Outcomes

- While formative evaluations are part of each M-II block, majority of the assessment comes from the customized NBME exam
- There were 12 failures on the NBME exams in the first two blocks, this has decreased to a total of 5 failures on the subsequent four blocks. Ultimately 2 students did not pass one block and 2 students did not pass 2 blocks

