Message From the Chair:

PROGRAM IN DANGER OF LOSING FUNDING

The General Internal Medicine Statewide Preceptorship Program (GIMSPP) could fall victim to budget cuts this legislative session. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s 2004-05 budget request did NOT include funding for the GIMSPP, nor for the family practice and pediatric preceptorship programs. However, a proposal now on the table in the House Appropriations Education Subcommittee would restore funding with a 12.5 percent cut.

Without funding from the coordinating board, all three primary care preceptorship programs will cease to exist.

As one of our valued preceptors who have dedicated time, energy, and talent to training medical students in the practice of internal medicine, we know how much the program means to you. Please contact your senator and representative by fax or e-mail to tell them what the preceptorship program means to the patients of Texas in terms of access to general internists in the future, and to medical students in terms of an irreplaceable learning experience.

To find your legislative contacts, go to http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/fyi/fyi.htm.

In your correspondence, please:
1. Encourage their support for the preceptor program and the future of primary care in Texas (talking points provided below)
2. Express in your own words the impact the preceptor program has on your practice and general internal medicine
3. Copy Chairman Teel Bivins of Senate Committee on Finance, Chairman Talmadge Heflin of House Committee on Appropriations, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, and Speaker of the House Tom Craddick. (contact information on page 2)

GIMSPP Funding Talking Points

- The number of medical school graduates selecting a career in general internal medicine is inadequate to meet the health care needs in Texas.
- The General Internal Medicine Statewide Preceptorship Program (GIMSPP) has been consistently successful in achieving the charge issued by the Texas Legislature in 1995 to encourage students to choose primary care as a career and to practice in medically underserved areas.
- Since its inception in 1992, the GIMSPP has placed 1,226 first and second year medical students in the offices of general internists to learn first-hand about the practice of primary care early in their medical school training before they have chosen their specialty.
- All eight Texas medical schools participate, and students are matched with general internists from all across our state who personally mentor a student in their practice for one to four weeks.
- Annual outcomes studies of graduating medical students who participated in the GIMSPP confirm that students who participate in a preceptorship experience:
  ✓ have a much more positive perception of primary care;
  ✓ are more likely to continue on the path to a primary care career;

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Available Preceptors Needed

Have you returned your 2003 availability form? As you can see from the chart below, the number of students interested in an internal medicine preceptorship far exceed the number of preceptors who have indicated that they are available to host a student this year. The GIMSPP does not want to deny this wonderful experience to any interested students. If you have not yet returned your 2003 availability form to the GIMSPP business office, please do so now. To request another copy of the form, please call the GIMSPP business office at (512) 370-1531. Thank you for your help in providing this exceptional learning experience to Texas medical students!

Preceptor Q&A

Q: When will I find out if I’ve been matched with a student for a summer preceptorship?

A: The GIMSPP staff began matching in early March. Before matching you with a student, a staff member will contact you to verify that you can host the student for that particular time. Matching depends on the student’s location preference as well as your availability. If you have not yet returned your 2003 availability form to the GIMSPP business office, please do so now. This form lets the staff know when you are available and that you are willing to host a student this year.

Q: What are some benefits that I can gain through the preceptorship?

A: Valuable by-products of the preceptorship experience with medical students are:

- Developing a positive, collegial relationship;
- Discussing professional goals;
- Professional role modeling;
- Observing the doctor-patient relationship;
- Recruiting to primary care and geriatric medicine;
- Enhanced practice prestige;
- Continued learning by the teacher; and
- Teaching the student to teach.

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✓ are positively influenced in their decisions as to whether or not to set up their practice in a medically underserved area; and
✓ are more likely to remain in Texas to practice medicine upon completion of their studies.

The General Internal Medicine Statewide Preceptorship Program is fulfilling its mission to aid in the training of future General Internal Medicine physicians to protect the health and welfare of the people of Texas.

Copy your correspondence to:

Teel Bevins, Chair, Senate Committee on Finance:
Fax (512) 463-0326; email teel.bivins@senate.state.tx.us
Talmadge Heflin, Chair, House Committee on Appropriations:
Fax (512) 463-5896; email talmadge.heflin@house.state.tx.us
David Dewhurst, Lieutenant Governor:
Fax (512) 936-6700; email david.dewhurst@senate.state.tx.us
Tom Craddick, Speaker of the House:
Fax (512) 463-0675; email tom.craddick@house.state.tx.us

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to work toward saving the GIMSPP for Texas future medical students and patients.

―William H. Welch (1850-1958)
Tips for Preceptors

The goal of feedback is to improve performance. Following are some tips on how to give effective feedback to the student:

I dentify rotation objectives
✓ Clarify your expectations of the student’s performance.
✓ With the student, develop several specific rotation objectives.
✓ Base your feedback on expectations and objectives.
✓ Let the student know that feedback is an integral part of the rotation.

M ake a feedback-friendly environment
✓ Describe the feedback process: when it’s given, who gives it (staff too?).
✓ Show interest in the student’s education.
✓ Start with positive feedback; point out strengths as well as areas to develop.
✓ Ask for feedback about your precepting.

P erformance assessment and Prioritize the feedback
✓ Directly observe students conducting histories and exams.
✓ Gather information from partners and staff, and encourage them to give feedback.
✓ Can this feedback help the student improve?
✓ What key points do you want to address?
✓ Balance positive feedback and constructive criticism.
✓ Give feedback as soon after an event as possible, when the student isn’t rushed or stressed.

R espond to student’s self-assessment
✓ Ask for the student’s self-assessment, and use it to lead into your feedback.

O - Be Objective
✓ Describe specific actions you have observed directly.
✓ Describe potential outcomes of the behavior.
✓ Don’t make global judgments about the individual.

V alidate what’s done well, or suggest alternative strategies.
✓ Encourage continuation of positive behavior, OR
✓ Suggest alternative behaviors when the student’s performance is weak.

E stablish a plan
✓ Make a plan if change needed.
✓ Encourage student to summarize the feedback and plan.

Source: www.mtn.ncahec.org/pdp/MSOfficeFiles/rtf/Giving_Feedback.rtf.
Accessed March 25, 2003. Reprinted with permission from the Mountain Area Health Education Center Preceptor Development Program, which compiled this information through the following grant: HRSA Family Medicine Training Grant #1D15PE50119-01.

GIMSPP Preceptors Awarded Fellowship in the ACP-ASIM

Congratulations to our GIMSPP preceptors who recently earned advancement from Membership to Fellowship within the American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine (ACP-ASIM). Fellowship is an honorary designation bestowed upon individuals who are dedicated to continuing education, teaching, or research. Those who achieve Fellowship are recognized by their peers for their personal integrity, superior competence in internal medicine, professional accomplishment, and demonstrated scholarship. The GIMSPP is proud to have such distinguished preceptors as part of our team of volunteer physicians.

- KoKo Aung, MD, FACP, Odessa
- Khavar Dar, MD, FACP, Dallas
- Margaret Hayden, MD, FACP, Tyler
- Sonny Win, MD, FACP, Temple

For information on becoming a member of ACP-ASIM, visit www.acponline.org/college/membership/required.htm, or call (512) 370-1508 to request membership information.

PRECEPTOR EVALUATION OF STUDENT AND PROGRAM GOES ONLINE

An important part of the preceptorship experience for the student is the feedback you provide through the evaluation form. When the GIMPPS staff matches you with a student, you are sent a paper copy of the evaluation form in your confirmation packet. To make filling out this form easier for you, we’ve posted an interactive version on the GIMSPP Web site, www.gimspp.org — now you can simply fill it out and submit it online. To locate the online evaluation, go to the GIMSPP Web site and click on “Preceptor Evaluation of Student” in the Important Links box in the upper right corner of the screen. Remember that your student will not be eligible to receive his or her stipend until the GIMSPP business office receives your evaluation.
Faculty Development Books

Each year the GIMSPP provides its volunteer faculty with a tool to stay well informed and trained in the subject of teaching medical students in the office setting. Teaching Ambulatory Medicine, Moving Medical Education into the Office, is an excellent resource offering practical advice on starting and carrying out medical education in an office setting, while emphasizing the benefits of ambulatory teaching for both medical students and physicians. Because of budget constraints, we will send the book only to those preceptors who host a student this year. The business office does have a few extra copies of this book and will be happy to send you one at your request while supplies last. To request a copy, call the GIMSPP business office at (512) 370-1531.

Resources for Preceptors — Online!

Take advantage of online resources for preceptors. The American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine has compiled extensive lists of Web sites to enhance your teaching skills, useful textbooks, clinical practice guidelines, and evidence-based medicine sources. Access the links to these resources at http://www.acponline.org/cme/cbt/internet_res.htm.

Welcome, New Preceptors!

A warm welcome to the newest GIMSPP preceptors! We’re glad you’re part of the team and hope you will enjoy serving in the program.

- Neil Adelman, MD, Tyler
- Craig Berent, MD, Austin
- Humberto Bruschetta, MD, Kingsville
- Joseph Holland Jr., MD, Beaumont
- Erin Kennedy, MD, Pearlland
- Agnes Kinra, MD, Plano
- Kenneth Landgraf, MD, Brenham
- Marvin Moszkowicz, MD, San Antonio
- Thieu Nguyen, MD, Houston
- Herman Poteet, MD, Temple
- Janeana White, MD, Houston
- Nathan Wright, MD, Texarkana

This year with overwhelming student interest in the GIMSPP, the program is asking for your help in recruiting new preceptors. If you have a colleague who would make a good preceptor, please fill out his/her name and phone number below, and return by fax to the GIMSPP business office at (512) 370-1635. Thanks in advance for your help in building the future of medical students and the future of internal medicine in Texas.

Recommend a Preceptor

I, ___________________________________________would like to recommend the following physician(s) to the GIMSPP. (Please Print)

Dr.’s Name:_____________________________Ph: ____________

Fax back to: (512) 370-1635, attention Christy McDonald