Physician refresher/re-entry courses

Across the United States, a number of organizations, such as the American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, and Federation of State Medical Boards, are working together to facilitate continuing education opportunities for physicians. Regionally, the Drexel Medicine Physician Refresher/Re-Entry Program of Drexel University College of Medicine (DUCOM) has served the physician community in this way since the program was developed in 1968.

The Drexel Medicine Physician Refresher/Re-Entry Program is a regional resource for physicians to enhance, refresh, or update a particular clinical skill. In addition, there are many retired physicians looking to return to medicine and physicians from overseas who want to acculturate to the American medical system. Though most physicians who participate in the program are from our region, others have come from all over the United States and the world.

Recently enhanced program

In 2006 the refresher/re-entry program was enhanced by combining DUCOM’s experience, instructional technology resources, and the school’s excellence in medical education. The result was innovative, exportable curricula for physicians to access anywhere on their own time. The Drexel Refresher/Re-Entry Program has several courses that physicians may take independently or sequentially to refresh or enhance their skills or remediate a subject.

The Drexel Refresher/Re-Entry Program currently offers several educational opportunities online as well as on site. The goal of the online program is to allow physicians anywhere to access the courses at their convenience in order to update their medical knowledge and improve clinical reasoning or communication skills. Enhancing one’s communication skills is particularly useful when interacting with specific patient populations or situations, such as changing habits, substance abuse, intimate partner violence, and adolescent care.

The on-site courses are given in Philadelphia at DUCOM’s university hospitals, Hahnemann and St. Christopher’s, and are offered in internal medicine, obstetrics-gynecology, surgery, pediatrics, and subspecialties. Furthermore, focused training is available on specific topics such as medical documentation or chronic disease management.

Learning opportunities are also available using the Independence Blue Cross Medical Simulation Center, a state-of-the-art facility that features life-like robots, simulation programs, and newly designed rooms where health professionals can interact with actors portraying sick patients.

Innovations with WebOSCE

WebOSCE, another novel online technology, allows live “WebEncounters” between physician learners and selected standardized patients (actor-patients). This new learning format features online practice, assessment, mentoring, and assignment of learning tasks.

For detailed information about WebOSCE, go to http://webcampus.drexelmed.edu/webosce.

Experienced faculty and staff

DUCOM’s faculty and staff serve as an additional resource and offer help in becoming up-to-date in various “newer” skills pertinent to a practicing physician, such as electronic medical records, medical documentation changes, computer or research skills, medical errors, and health policy changes. Equally important, the DUCOM staff guides physicians in the maze of career counseling and regulations to determine the best way of achieving each physician’s goals, both before they take any of the courses and long after they finish. Physicians who have completed the program have stayed in touch, seeking guidance with letters and credentialing and reporting on their progress.

For more information about the opportunities offered by DUCOM, please visit http://webcampus.drexelmed.edu/refresher or call 215-762-2580.