Frequently Asked Questions for Preceptors

What is the Colorado Springs Branch (CSB)?

The CSB is the first regional medical campus for the University of Colorado School of Medicine (CUSOM). Beginning Spring of 2016, CUSOM will offer clinical training experiences to twenty four (24) 3rd year medical students in the Colorado Springs community.

How are students selected for the CSB?

All potential CSB students must first be accepted to the CUSOM through a very rigorous and holistic admissions process. Erik Wallace, Associate Dean for Colorado Springs Branch, calls all accepted applicants who have expressed an interest in the CSB. A separate committee, comprised of CUSOM Admissions Committee members who are based in Colorado Springs, review each student’s application (including his/her Colorado Springs essay) and then selects the cohort of students who are the best “fit” for the CSB. The majority of students selected for the Class of 2018 and 2019 already have a previous relationship with the Colorado Springs community.

Are the CSB students required to select a primary care residency?

No. We will strive to prepare all CSB students to become health care leaders and highly competitive applicants in whichever specialties they choose.

Will these students come back to practice medicine in Colorado Springs?

Many regional medical campuses have had great success with recruiting their students to eventually practice in these same communities. If this community provides outstanding clinical experiences for our students, then we will increase our chances of having the CSB students practice in our community in the future. Also, if the students are happy with their experience then they will be fantastic recruiters for each new class of CSB students.

What will be the structure of the clinical curriculum?

We will be implementing a Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship (LIC) model for the 3rd year core clinical experience. CSB students will be required to complete their 3rd year in Colorado Springs and will have the option of completing elective clinical rotations in Colorado Springs during the 4th year.

What is a Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship (LIC) model and how does it differ from the traditional core clerkship model?

Traditional core clerkships are discipline-based and run in a series of 4- to 8-week rotations over the third year of medical school, predominately in inpatient settings. In the CSB LIC model, students are paired with preceptors in predominately outpatient settings over the course of 10 months. Inpatient experiences will be provided through 8 weeks “immersions” at the beginning of 3rd year.

Why is the CSB interested in the LIC model?

The LIC model is designed to give the medical students a “patient-centered” experience. This model has grown in popularity in response to the decline in empathy of students toward
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patients in the traditional block model. Not only has the LIC resulted in higher levels of patient empathy as students follow their patients over the course of their clinical training, but the LIC students perform as well or better in numerous performance measures. LIC models have also produced higher levels of satisfaction among students, preceptors, and patients.

I work in a very busy clinical practice, I was trained in the traditional clerkship model, and I have not worked with medical students in some time. Can I be an effective preceptor in this LIC model?

Absolutely. LIC’s are well-suited for the busy clinician as you will be able to work with one student on a regular basis (i.e. ½-day of clinic weekly or biweekly) for the entire 3rd year. You, the student, and the patients can benefit greatly from these continuous and developing relationships over the course of the year. The Academy of Medical Educators (AME), through the CUSOM, and the El Paso County Medical Society (EPCMS) will be providing 4-5 hours of core preceptor training in March 2016 for all interested preceptors. These sessions will be: How to effectively and efficiently work with a student in your clinical practice; How to assess and evaluate a student; and How to identify a struggling learner.

What are the benefits to me for working with CSB students?

In addition to the satisfaction of working with outstanding students in a patient-centered educational model, there are several benefits that come with receiving a volunteer faculty appointment with CUSOM. These benefits include (for complete list of benefits, see additional handout):

- Maintenance of Certification administrative support for QI projects
- Access to CUSOM Library resources
- Learning From Teaching CME credit
- A ucdenver.edu email address and discount airport parking near DIA

I am interested in working with CSB students. What are the next steps?

- Notify your CMO or medical director and Erik Wallace or Chad Stickrath (see below)
- We will then email you information on the faculty appointment process through the Office of Community Based Medical Education (OCBME) and the specific precepting opportunities that will be available to you.

Thank you for your interest in working with the CUSOM Colorado Springs Branch and our wonderful medical students. Please don’t hesitate to contact us at any time.

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