Director’s Note

With the introduction of disability services to the AMC campus in 2007, we’ve worked hard to establish the first Office of Disability Resources & Services (DRS).

- We hired Ms. Sherry Holden, Coordinator of DRS, who is at the AMC campus 20 hours/week to assist students with obtaining accommodations and receiving equal access to an education.
- Our population of students with disabilities, eligible for accommodations, has increased from three to approx. 30.
- The full range of accommodations are provided for students with disabilities at the AMC including alternative testing, books in alternate format and notetaking services (see page two for descriptions).
- We’ve received funding approval for an additional position at the AMC campus whose role will include the coordination of accommodations.
- We’ve established an Accommodation Liaison Committee, with representatives from each college and school, to assist with the implementation of accommodations at the AMC.

We’ve had a very busy year at the AMC and are pleased to share our activities and improvements with you. We appreciate the support from students, faculty and staff during our transition and encourage you to contact any of our staff for questions or concerns.

Technical Standards

- Students with disabilities, including those applying to or attending medical school, must meet any reasonable technical standards required by the programs to which they are applying or in when they are enrolled.
- A qualified student may not be denied admission on the sole basis of disability. A qualified person with a disability is a person who meets the academic and technical standards required for admission or participation in a program.
- Institutions must make academic adjustments for students who meet the academic and technical standards of a program in which they are enrolled.
- Colleges and universities are not required to accommodate students with disabilities by altering requirements that are essential to their programs.
Typical Accommodations

**Alternative Testing:** Since standardized testing often measures a person’s disability instead of their abilities, the environment of the test administration is modified to provide the student an equal opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge. Testing accommodations include but are not limited to: additional time, private room, use of a reader and/or scribe, use of computer and a different format (large print, Braille).

**Alternate Formats:** Students with a print impairment, e.g. vision impairment, reading disorder (dyslexia) and/or a physical disorder, may need printed material (textbooks, journal articles) in an alternate format. This material can be provided in an alternate format (enlarged print, Braille, digital audio format) thereby providing equal access to the printed word.

**Notetaker Services:** Students with many types of disabilities, such as a vision impairment, a learning disability and/or a physical impairment, may require assistance in taking notes during class. The intention of this accommodation is to assist students who cannot generate a complete set of notes on their own. Notetakers are a peer/fellow student in the classroom who can volunteer or be paid to share their notes. This is not a replacement for attendance; therefore, notes are only provided when the student with a disability attends class.

When the third-year medical students in a Temple University School of Medicine physical diagnosis class were presented with patient Thomas Strax, they were pretty sure he might have some rehabilitative potential. Looking at the thin man sitting in a wheelchair in a white hospital gown, they saw that he obviously had cerebral palsy. The students decided that the patient may be able to “sell pencils on Broad Street,” and the patient was wheeled out.

A few minutes later, the guest lecturer arrived. Clothed in a dress shirt, tie and lab coat, he introduced himself as Thomas Strax, MD. To the students’ surprise, this guest lecturer was none other than the patient they had just dismissed minutes earlier as only having a future in a sheltered workshop. Strax, a physician who specializes in physical medicine and rehabilitation, had a message for these beginning doctors: “We see what we are looking for. We look for what we know. What we don’t know, we never see.”

Creating Access: Universal Signs for Access
Do you know what these symbols mean? Match the universal sign with the appropriate name for the sign.

1. Symbol for Accessibility
2. Telephone Typewriter (TTY)
3. Braille Symbol
4. Closed Captioning
5. Accessible Print
6. Audio Description
7. The Information Symbol
8. Sign Language Interpretation
9. Volume control telephone
10. Assistive Listening System
11. Opened Captioning (OC)
12. Access for individuals who are Blind or Low Vision

Just for Laughs
From The Medical Chart:
The patient is the fourth of three children.
Universal Access Answers

1. **Assistive Listening Systems** – This symbol indicates an assistive listening device is available for use. Persons who are hard of hearing may use an Infrared or FM system to hear a lecture, theatre performance, etc.

2. **Sign Language Interpretation** - The symbol indicates that Sign Language Interpretation is provided for a lecture, film, performance or other program.

3. **Access for Individuals Who are Blind or Have Low Vision** - This symbol may be used to indicate access for people who are blind or have low vision including: a guided tour, a path to a nature trail or a scent garden in a park and/or a tactile tour (exhibits may be touched).

4. **Open Captioning** - This symbol indicates that captions, which translate dialogue and other sounds in print, are displayed on the videotape, movie or television program. This display will be text only.

5. **Information Symbol** - The symbol may be used on signage or on a floor plan to indicate the location of the information or security desk, where there is more specific information or materials concerning access, accommodations and services.

6. **Volume Control Telephone** - This symbol indicates the location of telephones that have handsets with amplified sound and/or adjustable volume controls.

7. **Accessibility** - The wheelchair symbol is used to indicate access for individuals with limited mobility including wheelchair users. For example, the symbol is used to indicate an accessible entrance, bathroom or phone.

8. **Audio Description** - A service for persons who are blind or have low vision that makes the performing arts, visual arts, television, video, and film more accessible. Description of visual elements is provided by a trained Audio Describer through the Secondary Audio Program (SAP) of televisions and monitors equipped with stereo sound.

9. **Braille Symbol** - This symbol indicates that printed material is available in Braille, including exhibition labeling, publications and signage.

10. **Telephone Typewriter (TTY)** - This device, also known as a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), allows a deaf consumer to place a phone call to a relay service. They type their conversation to the relay service operator who then contacts the party to be called and voices the deaf consumer’s dialogue.

11. **Closed Captioning** - This symbol indicates that captions, which translate dialogue and other sounds in print, are displayed on the videotape, movie or television program. This display will be enclosed (light-colored text contrasted against a dark box).

12. **Accessible Print (18 pt. or Larger)** - The symbol indicates text printed in 18 pt. or larger.