

PATIENT-DOCTOR II ENTERS ITS SECOND YEAR!

Patient-Doctor II is an interdisciplinary, multimodal 316 hour course in the second year curriculum. It combines Physical Examination and Diagnosis with previously free-standing courses in Behavioral Science, Ethics, Human Sexuality, Nutrition, Toxicology, Epidemiology and Biostatistics, as well as content material from geriatrics and genetics. It also emphasizes development of literature searching and critical analysis skills. 1993-4 was PD II's inaugural year. Designed to address pervasive student dissatisfaction with the pre-clinical curriculum and to promote integrated, student-centered learning, the course was well-received by students and faculty alike. Particular areas of success included incorporation of clinical material into the second year and, in physical diagnosis, the systematic exposure of students to a wide variety of defined clinical conditions, ensuring a defined data base and quality control.

This year the course continues to emphasize innovative educational methodologies, such as surrogate patient interviews, student peer teaching, expert small group discussions and large group demonstrations. Based on student concerns from last year, there has been a major revision of course objectives for each content area, stressing specificity and comprehensiveness. In addition, PD II has enhanced its information management instruction to include both basic and advanced literature searching strategies as well as critical appraisal skills. Further, it has added content instruction in cross-cultural medicine, medical economics, and occupational medicine, all critical knowledge areas for physicians entering medicine in the 21st century. In addition, certain aspects of the course's format have been modified, eliminating some learning activities deemed inefficient by students, and supplementing the course's core framework of patient modules with additional learning exercises such as preventive medicine problem-solving sessions and ethics case discussion small groups. Finally, the rather complex infrastructure of the course, including specific evaluation procedures for students, faculty, and course, has been explicated in a detailed Handbook. Patient-Doctor II is a complex and challenging course requiring significant time and energy from students, faculty, course directors, and staff alike. Our hope is that the rewards of participating in an interactive, student-centered, integrative educational experience will more than compensate for the effort demanded.