



November, 2016



# Dean's Newsletter

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AS REQUESTED BY MANY OF YOU, I will be providing periodic updates on the state of Nova Southeastern University's College of Allopathic Medicine and its progress toward attaining accreditation as the eighth M.D.-degree awarding medical school in Florida.

My excitement regarding this enormous undertaking cannot be overstated, and I am honored to devote my wholehearted efforts to such a transformational endeavor. While building a new medical school "from the ground up" may seem like an overwhelming task, it also represents an exciting opportunity to get it right from the start and to create an innovative, new type of medical school that can better prepare the nation's next generation of doctors for ever-evolving health care challenges.

I hope you will enjoy this first installment of the Dean's Newsletter, and I look forward to your feedback. For more information on the college's planning activities and events, please visit us at [md.nova.edu](http://md.nova.edu).

COLLEGE *of* ALLOPATHIC MEDICINE

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

## Welcoming New Faculty and Staff Members

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Collingwood



Wales



Wilkinson

- **Susan Collingwood**, J.D., was appointed assistant dean for Educational Standards and Quality in August 2016. Collingwood has a legal background and has begun drafting the medical college's governance documents, required policy, and operating procedure manuals. She is also working with the provost's office and general counsel to assure proper alignment between college and institutional policies.
- **Paula Wales**, Ed.D., joined the college on October 3 as the executive associate dean for Academic and Student Affairs. Wales is highly regarded in the academic community, having completed successful tenures at Indiana University School of Medicine and most recently at the Ross University School of Medicine. She will oversee the Office of Education and provide leadership for the medical college's educational and academic programs. She will also build a collaborative infrastructure committed to academic excellence and student success.
- **Ellen Wilkinson** recently became the medical college's new director of Accreditation. Wilkinson has more than 30 years of experience in coordinating medical education programs and facilitating accreditation. She will be the key manager and point of contact for all accreditation materials and electronic submissions and will coordinate the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) site visit, a key part of the accreditation process.

Our new faculty and staff members will be housed on the fifth floor of the HPD Terry Building. I hope you will take the opportunity to welcome each of them.

## Accreditation Timeline

I am pleased to report that the LCME has formally approved our accreditation timeline, which entails submitting the required accreditation and self-study documents by April 2017. Upon successful review, the LCME will conduct its site visit in November 2017 and will decide on the college's preliminary accreditation request during its January 2018 board meeting. If preliminary accreditation is granted, the college will welcome its charter class of 50 M.D. students in the fall of 2018.

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## Committee Meeting Reports

At the college's August Curriculum Committee meeting, its mission/vision statements and goals were discussed and narrowed down to the core values of academic excellence, innovation, teamwork, communication, diversity, integrity, and accountability. While we will continue to discuss and refine these core values, I can say with certainty that the future of NSU's medical college will be guided by the following key principles:

1. advancing innovation, empowering future leaders, and transforming patient care by developing new capacities in high-impact, high-reward sciences;
2. empowering future leaders, by providing students and trainees with the skills needed to transform the biomedical landscape; and
3. changing patient care by delivering health care that is accountable, coordinated, and patient-centered.

Each of these priorities carries important interrelationships and interdependencies. Therefore, it will be essential to clearly define our expectations and future investments. Aside from receiving input from the members of the Curriculum Committee, I will reach out to key stakeholders at NSU and from the community to assure broad support for the College of Allopathic Medicine's mission, vision, and overarching goals.

## Curricular Design

During the August Curriculum Committee meeting, the first phase of a three-phase curriculum was discussed. The committee expressed enthusiasm for case-based learning methodologies that allow students to develop both their knowledge and skill sets by solving real-world, professional problems.

Case-based learning is one form of experiential learning in which students collaborate in a small group environment to work through patient cases. By placing knowledge acquisition in a clinical context, students are able to think as professionals in a real-world clinical context. We enlisted a consulting firm to provide additional input on developing a structured, case-based learning platform, with a systems-based integrated design. At future meetings, we will discuss problem selection and case writing, tutor composition and training, classroom architecture, library resources, faculty teaching time, and methods for student assessment.

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## LCME Data Collection Instrument

LCME accreditation covers an array of programmatic standards, which involves completion of a comprehensive Data Collection Instrument (DCI) coupled with an Institutional Self Study that provides an in-depth internal analysis of the college's progress toward accreditation goals. We have initiated this process under the direction of Ellen Wilkinson, director of Accreditation. I would like to thank all NSU faculty members and volunteers from the community who assumed responsibility for specific DCI sections and assisted in the development of initial draft documents. The self-study task force will begin meeting very soon so the subcommittees can produce the required reports.

## Research Integration

The recent opening of NSU's Center for Collaborative Research, [nova.edu/ccr](http://nova.edu/ccr), signifies the university's commitment to research excellence and innovation. During the opening celebration, I had the opportunity to visit the NSU Cell Therapy Institute with its state-of-the-art laboratories, research cores, and, most importantly, outstanding faculty members.

I wish to thank Drs. Tom Temple and Richard Jove, institute director, and Dr. Jove's team for their dedication and

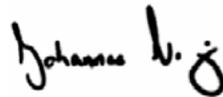
support. Dr. Jove and I are committed to working together to integrate the NSU Cell Therapy Institute with the College of Allopathic Medicine through several collaborative research and student education projects. Integral to this partnership will be a close collaboration with researchers from Sweden's world-renowned Karolinska Institutet, which will continue to catalyze our progress and medical innovation.

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## Communication Plan

The College of Allopathic Medicine's Curriculum Committee emphasized the importance of communicating effectively, accurately, and clearly. Based on these recommendations, I convened a series of planning meetings with Kyle Fisher, vice president for Public Relations and Marketing Communications, and her team to develop the college's communications strategy. This plan seeks to clearly define our interactions, key messages, target audiences, and communications styles. The communications plan is essential to help the college properly engage and interact with faculty and staff members, our partners, and especially our students, who differ from other

generations in their communications styles. Today, face-to-face meetings, telephone conversations, and even emails are increasingly being replaced by apps, social media, and instant messaging on a 24/7 basis. By understanding our students' values and communications styles, we can more effectively engage with them and assure their success as future doctors.



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