Maher receives faculty award

Veronica M. Maher, associate dean for graduate studies and co-director of the Carcinogenesis Laboratory, recently received one of MSU's 1988 Distinguished Faculty Awards.

Veronica M. Maher received one of the ten 1988 Distinguished Faculty Awards at MSU.

Maher, associate dean for graduate studies and professor of biochemistry and of microbiology and public health, is internationally known for her research on how DNA repair processes prevent carcinogenic transformation in human cells.

Along with J. Justin McCormick, associate dean for research and also a professor of biochemistry and of microbiology and public health, she established the MSU Carcinogenesis Laboratory in 1976.

Maher and McCormick pioneered the use of human cells to study cancer there. They have received more than $10 million in grants during the past eleven years.

Maher has fostered the scientific education of more than 40 postdoctoral fellows and graduate students, many in the Medical Scientist Training Program.

"Genetics is in the marrow of her bones," McCormick said at a recent conference for research directors of osteopathic colleges at MSU-COM.

Maher entered a Ph.D. program in order to teach molecular biology and genetics at the college level. She holds a B.S. in biology from Marygrove College in Detroit, an M.S. in biology from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. in molecular biology from the University of Wisconsin.

As a graduate student in Madison, Wisconsin, she worked at the McArdle Laboratory for cancer research and had a postdoctoral research fellowship there. She then spent a year as a research associate at Yale University School of Medicine in the Department of Radiology before returning to her alma mater - Marygrove College.

While teaching at Marygrove, she was a research associate at the U of M in the Department of Human Genetics for five months and also spent a summer as a research associate at Johns Hopkins University in the Department of Radiological Sciences.

She went on to work with the Michigan Cancer Foundation, first as a research scientist and later as chief of the carcinogenesis laboratory in the division of biological sciences.

While at the Michigan Cancer Foundation she began to work with McCormick. Deciding to expand their research and wanting to maintain their Michigan roots, Maher and McCormick looked to Michigan's universities.

In large part they chose MSU, she said, because Dean Myron S. Magen offered them the support and space they needed to develop an integrated program for the study of the causes of human cancer.

"There is no doubt that Drs. Maher and McCormick have elevated the excellence of research in this college," Magen noted.

"They are outstanding as prolific and creative researchers."

Maher received the award at a campus ceremony held this month. MSU President John DiBiaggio was the presenter.

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Taylor receives national recognition

Terrie E. Taylor, D.O., received the Young Investigator Award at a recent meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene in Los Angeles. Taylor is the first osteopathic physician to receive the award. The award is presented annually to the neophyte submitting, in the estimation of the judges, the best abstract.

Taylor’s presentation at the conference, "Intravenous Quinine Does Not Cause Hypoglycemia in African Children with Cerebral Malaria," was based on data collected at the Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital in Blantyre, Malawi. Taylor and Dr. Malcolm E. Molyneux of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine collaborate there in a study of severe malaria.

Malaria is one of the leading causes of childhood morbidity and mortality in sub-Saharan Africa, Taylor said. Her work was featured in the December issue of Communiqué.

Taylor is a graduate of the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine and of Swarthmore College. She completed her internship at Riverside Osteopathic Hospital and did an internal medicine residency at Detroit Osteopathic Hospital.

She also earned a masters degree in tropical medicine from the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. She has been a MSU-COM faculty member since 1986.

After teaching at MSU this fall, Taylor returned to Malawi in January to continue with the clinical work on severe Plasmodium falciparum infections in children and to supervise MSU students on elective rotations at QECH. She will be back at MSU in August.

Taylor’s prize money has been donated to the Fitzgerald Scholarship Fund. This fund, coordinated by the International Health Project, was created to help defray the costs incurred by MSU medical students on overseas electives.

AACOM Statistics

Students

Freshmen enrolled in osteopathic colleges more than tripled during the last twenty years, according to the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine’s 1987 Annual Statistical Report.

The study is based on data collected from the nation’s 15 osteopathic medical schools. A total of 6,640 students were training to be osteopathic physicians in 1987, and about 1,700 D.O.s are expected to graduate annually in 1988, 1989 and 1990, according to the study.

Of those expected to graduate this year, about 26 percent will be women. Women now total 28 percent of the student body. Compared to a decade ago, the number of women who apply to osteopathic schools has increased 79 percent.

The number of minority students increased by 9 percent during the 1986-87 academic year.

Physicians

There are 26,794 osteopathic physicians in the United States, a 5 percent increase from 1986.

Michigan has the greatest amount with 3,705 physicians. Other top-ranking states include Pennsylvania (3,418), Ohio (2,254), Florida (1,716), Texas (1,641), Missouri (1,548) and New Jersey (1,497). All other states have less than 1,000.

The military claims 1,254 osteopathic physicians.

More than half of U.S. osteopathic physicians, 54 percent, have private practices. Six percent work out of hospitals while 5 percent are interns and 5 percent are residents. About 4 percent are in postdoctoral study and 2 percent are educators, administrators or researchers. The rest are retired or inactive.

High Blood Pressure Control Conference

The eighth annual Great Lakes Conference on High Blood Pressure Control is scheduled for April 18-20 at Weber’s Inn in Ann Arbor.

The program features clinical updates and cholesterol education, in addition to long-term follow-up and multiple risk reduction.

This program is open to physicians, nurses and all others who are involved with high blood pressure control.

For more information, contact:
Hypertension Control Program
Michigan Department of Public Health
P.O. Box 30035
Lansing, MI 48909
(517)335-8913
News from beyond...
The happenings of MSU-COM alumni

'73

John C. Baumann recently became a Fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons at the October meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Harry D. McCaleb has been elected vice chairman of the medical staff at Mesa General Hospital Medical Center, where he serves as director of the Medical Laboratories.

Roger K. Schwartzberg has been appointed to the governing board at University General Hospital in Seminole, Florida.

'75

Randall L. DeArment writes: "I have moved to my own office, an old house that took me two months to renovate and prepare. I'm now located 500 yards from E.L. Bixby Hospital and two miles from home (in Adrian)."

Mary Jo Kosinski-Voelpel was recently appointed as director of the Women's Center, Oxford Clinic, a branch of Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital.

'76

Steven J. Dupuis is associating with Dennis S. VanWormer, MSU-COM 1984, and is opening a multidisciplinary family care center, with physical therapy and psychology. The center, located in Rockford, will have extended hours.

Dupuis received a teaching award from the Department of Family Medicine at the Michigan Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons meeting in May.

Deborah Jo LeVan writes: "My husband, Ross Parker, and I adopted an 11-month-old Korean baby. Her name is Sarah Soo-Rae LeVan-Parker. She has been with us four months and she is wonderful!"

'77

Edna R. Bick has a new office location in Mt. Morris, called Family Medical Center. She will terminate her practice at Village Clinic in Flint.

Sandra C. Corp has relocated to Virginia near Washington, D.C. She writes: "Husband Dave is now working for Pulsecom. I am working as a primary care physician for PHP Health Corporation. Our daughters are Piper, 6, and Robin, 3."

Charles Scot Pursley has been elected president of the medical staff of Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital. He has been on the POH medical staff since 1979. He served as vice president in 1987.

'78

Kenyon S. Kendall writes he is a glaucoma specialist at Neumann Eye Institute, a world renowned eye care facility located in central Florida, 45 miles north of Orlando.

Kenneth Lim was appointed member-at-large of the medical staff at Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital for 1988.

Ronald V. Marino presented a paper at the American Medical Public Health Association in New Orleans, entitled "Characteristics of a Child with Nursing Bottle Syndrome." Marino is affiliated with New York College of Osteopathic Medicine and State University of New York-Stony Brook Medical School.

'79

Frank F. Lanzilote and Susan M. Rice are entering their fifth year of family practice in northwest Detroit. Both completed general practice residencies at Botsford General Hospital and are board certified. They enjoy the freedom and flexibility of private practice, they write, and continue a full family practice including obstetrics. Throughout 1987 they volunteered free health care to political refugees from El Salvador, Nicaragua and Sri Lanka.

Carole B. Rizzo married Gary M. Baum. She has a new office location in West Bloomfield, at 22250 Providence Drive, Suite 210, where she practices obstetrics and gynecology and pediatric and adolescent gynecology.

Mark A. Sloane has recently been named medical director of The Clinical Center for Learning and Development, a multi-disciplinary facility in southwest Michigan servicing more than 1,000 children with learning and attention defects. He continues to maintain a private pediatric practice in Dowagiac and Niles.

'80

Arlie N. Getz Wallace writes: "It has indeed been a very busy year. I completed a three-year residency in general adult psychiatry at MSU in May and passed Part I of the osteopathic certifying boards in psychiatry in October.

My husband David and I and our two-year old son, Marshall, recently welcomed the arrival of twin girls on December 12. Morgan Elizabeth and Meredith Katherine Wallace are doing great. The whole family is eagerly looking forward to our upcoming move to Sarasota, Fla., this spring where I will join a group practice in psychiatry.
and my husband will relocate his corporate law practice. Currently, I am employed as the chief psychiatrist of emergency services through Ingham County Community Mental Health.

"If anyone passes through Florida be sure to look us up!"

'81

Glenn V. Dregansky recently joined the staff of the Davis Clinic of Mt. Pleasant. He completed a three-year family practice residency at D.D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center at Fort Gordon, Georgia. He spent three years in practice with the U.S. Army, and in 1986 was awarded the Army Surgeon General Physician Recognition Award, recognizing the top Army physician of the year.

Donna L. Edison married Normund Wong, M.D., on July 18. She lectured on developmental psychiatry in Seoul, Korea, in October. She also consulted with her husband at Hasagawa Hospital in Tokyo that month. She will finish training in child and infant psychiatry in June 1988. She is scheduled to lecture and supervise in Australia in April, and to lecture in Korea, Japan and Taiwan in November.

Margaret J. Hepke received board certification in the specialty of utilization review and quality assurance by the American Board of Utilization Review and Quality Assurance of the American Medical Association. She is currently working as an attending psychiatrist at Southfield Rehabilitation Hospital.

James L. Hess completed an orthopedic residency at Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital in August.

He writes: "My wife Jamie, and son Matthew, recently moved to Tucson, Arizona, where I have joined another orthopedic surgeon in practice at Tucson General Hospital."

Arthur H. Schurgin is in a private practice of anesthesia and critical care. He is an assistant clinical professor of anesthesiology at the University of Southern California Medical Center.

He is married to Cindy Schurgin.

'82

Timothy M. Burandt opened a new surgery practice in January and is completing a general surgery residency at Riverside Osteopathic Hospital in Trenton. Between his residency and practice he worked as a staff emergency room physician at Henry Ford Hospital in Dearborn Center.

He is now located in Cheboygan. He writes: "I joined by my wife and one-year old son, Zachary--beautiful scenery, pleasant patients and great recreation."

Richard M. Butler has been appointed to the clinical faculty of Wayne State University as an instructor in the Department of Internal Medicine. His primary responsibilities are in the division of primary care internal medicine.

Research interests include the use of weight training exercises in cardiac rehabilitation programs. He recently wrote a paper which appeared in the September issue of the Journal of Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation, entitled "The Cardiovascular Response to Circuit Weight Training in Patients with Cardiac Disease."

Edward J. Conley was featured in a "go ask the doctor" series at the Genesee Valley Mall in Flint recently. Practicing family medicine in Flint, he is on the Board of Directors of the Michigan Heart Association, Flint/Northeast. He is listed in "Who's Who of the World 1987/88." Conley is involved in a breast cancer research program at MSU. He also serves in his physician capacity with the U.S. Olympic Committee at the Olympic Training Camp in Lake Placid, New York.

Gary L. Doublestein finished his OB-Gyn residency at Metropolitan Hospital in Grand Rapids in July. He is currently practicing medicine at the Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota, where he expects to be for the next 2 1/2 years.

He writes: "Though the scenery is sparse in these parts, the duck hunting is great! And so are the people!"

Daniel P. Eardley is the chief of the Department of General Surgery at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Newport, Rhode Island.

June D. Hilleston was the first D.O. to complete an internal medicine residency at Hartford Hospital at the University of Connecticut. She is currently an assistant professor of internal medicine and on active staff at both D.O. and M.D. hospitals in Iowa.

Her teaching commitments are to medical students, interns and residents.

She writes: "Hoping to publish a paper with chief of surgery at Massachusetts General in the near future. Fellowship in future. Miss the folks in Connecticut!"

Brent L. Himes completed a residency in anatomic pathology and laboratory medicine in June. He is currently a staff pathologist for Flint Osteopathic Hospital and an associate pathologist for Mid-Michigan Pathology Services.

His wife Tenley gave birth to their first child, named Lucy Elizabeth, on November 28. The family currently resides in Flushing.

'83

Keith R. Barbour writes: "I have accepted a position at Monroe Mercy Memorial Hospital and head up the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and will be opening a private practice there in August.

"Jessica Lynn has turned three and enjoys tumbling, ballet and preschool activities. Debra continues her work in home oncology nursing."
David W. Crotty writes: "Colleen and I are now entering our fourth tax year in California. Business is good -- would like an associate.

"Aaron and Loren, our two sons, are growing like California weeds, both with blonde hair and blue eyes. Not much time left over for many extra activities; work and family keep us occupied. Wish all a successful coming year."

William Denam is having a new house built in Sunnyvale, Texas, a suburb of Dallas. He is a staff physician in the emergency room at Mesquite Community Hospital in Mesquite, Texas. He is the director of the Emergency Department at Terrell Community Hospital, in Terrell, Texas.

Charlene Greene recently closed her practice in Honor and established a new practice in Acme.

On June 20, she married Bruce A. Ortenburger, in Manistique.

Susan L. Hendrix writes: "I will be finishing my OB-Gyn residency in June and joining George Russian in the Department of Osteopathic Medicine in OB-Gyn at MSU-COM in September."

Todd G. Hickox recently completed an internal medicine residency at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor. He was the chief medical resident in 1986-87. He currently works there as an emergency physician and plans to enter a cardiology fellowship next July at Wayne State University.

His wife Correen Ventocilla, M.D., finished her residency in physical medicine and rehabilitation in November at the University of Michigan. She is currently on the faculty at the U of M.

Their son Geoffrey is 2.

Timothy J. Kowalski writes: "I am presently in my PGY third year in psychiatry at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. This past holiday season I became engaged to Robin E. Daum, M.D., a transitional intern at Tripler. Robin plans on beginning a radiology residency at Tripler when I finish my residency.

"At this point it appears we will remain in Hawaii for the next four years or so.

"Congratulations to the Rose Bowl victor Spartans!"

Catherine Kroll has just completed construction on a new facility in Gwinn. The new office opened on December 21. She has been practicing in Gwinn since August 1984.

Sun F. Pei became a faculty member at the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine in September. He spends two-thirds of his time working in an outreach clinic belonging to the school where third-year students rotate. He also teaches family practice, manipulation and Chinese medicine, including acupuncture, to residents, interns and students.

Christopher Penoyar has been appointed as a clinical professor at the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific.

He has relocated to Battle Mountain, Nevada.

"Accepting visitors," he writes.

Steven D. Fuller will begin a three-year fellowship in pulmonary disease at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore in July. He will finish an internal medicine residency at Henry Ford Hospital in June.

He writes: "My career goals are to spend 50 percent of my time in critical care medicine and 50 percent in research.

"I will move to Baltimore with my wife and one-year old baby girl in June."

Kevin H. Lee graduated from the Grand Rapids family practice residency--a three-year program at Saint Mary's Hospital, Blodgett Memorial Medical Center and Butterworth Hospital. He served as the liaison resident for geriatrics/gerontology during his senior year.

Currently he is the medical director of the emergency department at United Memorial Hospital in Greenville. It is affiliated with Butterfield Ventures, Inc.

Daniel R. Smalley and his wife Linda had a new baby boy born June 13. Jonathan Andrew weighed 8 pounds and 2 ounces.

Keith B. Tom has a new son, Daniel Walter, born on June 9. He weighed 8 pounds and 2 ounces.

Dennis S. Vangwormer is associating with Steven J. Dupuis, MSU-COM 1976. Dupuis is opening a multi-disciplinary family care center in Rockford.

'85

William deLaRoza writes: "I'm halfway through a psychiatry residency at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, learning to help with other people's problems, now that I've given up on my own.

"I rebuilt my Volkswagen van's engine on a two week vacation, painted it sunburst yellow and now call it the millennium parakeet."

Erik A. Emaus has been employed for the past year as family practitioner by Burns Clinic Medical Center and is practicing in Bellaire.

Cheryl A. Hayes writes: 'I'm currently at the University of Michigan Medical Center Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation with date of graduation in July 1989. I'm halfway through!

"I got married to Leo Catallo on August 30. We reside in Ann Arbor and my husband is working on his Ph.D. at the U of M! Leo was a former employee at MSU-COM!"

Steven and Heidi Niergarth had their first child, named Mary Gretchen Niergarth, on December 22. Steve writes: "we are thoroughly enjoying her presence in our family."

Heidi is in general practice in Lansing and Okemos, and Steve is in his second year of an orthopedic surgery residency at Lansing General Hospital.
James N. Riley finished a general practice residency at Waterville Osteopathic Hospital in Maine in June. He has been in private practice at the Brewer Health Center with Gary Ross, a general practitioner who interned at Garden City Osteopathic.

Kevin T. Snyder finished a family practice residency at Flint Osteopathic Hospital. He is now doing family practice and sports medicine in the Flint area at Flushing Medical Center and Greater Flint Sports Medicine Center.

Catherine Zimmerman and husband Tom are the parents of a new daughter named Rachael Catherine. She was born on November 18 and weighed 7 pounds. Their son Matthew is now 3 1/2 years old.

Karen L. Babos is transferring to the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine to finish her internal medicine residency. She writes: "then I will complete a two-year fellowship in geriatric medicine, somewhere."

Michael W. Bays is doing an internal medicine residency at Bronson and Borgess Hospitals in Kalamazoo.

David L. Janeway is doing a psychiatry residency at Beth Israel Medical Center in New York at the teaching hospital of Mt. Sinai School of Medicine. He did his internship at Union Hospital in Union, New Jersey in 1986-87. He is interested in child psychiatry.

Kathleen D. Rollinger completed an internship at Detroit Osteopathic/Bi-County Hospital on June 30. She is currently a second year family practice resident at Bon Secour Hospital in Grosse Pointe.

Harry Friedman was the 1987 recipient of a Burroughs-Wellcome Osteopathic Research Fellowship Grant for a multi-site study entitled "A Feasibility Study for Documentation of Spinal Somatic Dysfunction During Routine Hospital Admitting Examinations."

He writes: "The study tested the feasibility of using a 'standardized' examination and record keeping protocol to increase the frequency of documenting osteopathic diagnosis and findings of tissue tension, motion response and structural configuration. A second year's study has been submitted for approval (for the same grant) to implement a multi-site design for long term data collection using a standardized record for documenting osteopathic findings and diagnosis on the admitting hospital exam."

He will be starting a family practice residency at Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine in July.

Ellen E. VanLaanen writes: "My husband Jeffrey and I had our second child, a son, Colin James, born on December 7. Our first child, Hannah Rose, is now 22 months old.

'I am still in general practice in Iron Mountain - Kingsford.'

Write us

Alumni, faculty, students and staff, please send your news for Communique to: The Office of Health Information, MSU-COM, A310 East Fee Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824-1316. If you have any questions, call (517)355-9261.

Lost alumni

We have not been able to locate the following alumni:

Deborah L. Hickey, 1976
Phillip J. Todd, 1977
Juan V. Rivera, 1980
John Gillespie, 1983
Christine M. Hamilton, 1985

If you can help please write or call: The Office of Continuing Medical Education, MSU-COM, A306 East Fee Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824-1316, (517)355-9714.

News on Campus

MSU-COM faculty, students and staff

Howard A. Dean, professor of internal medicine, has been named chairman of the Department of Medicine at the Ingham Medical Center.

Edward G. Loniewski, medical student, presented a paper entitled "SOMA: The Future of Osteopathic Medicine" to the American Medical Association - Medical Student Section in December.

Kathryn Lovell, associate professor of pathology, presented a paper at the annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience in New Orleans in November. The paper was titled "Astrocytosis in Caprine Beta-Mannosidosis."

Ronald F. Maio, assistant professor of internal medicine, was recently awarded a Fellowship in the American College of Emergency Physicians.

James Mullin, adjunct instructor of community health science, along with Henry Clay Smith, professor emeritus of psychology, have written a book entitled Ten Keys to Understanding People.

Eight MSU-COM students, who drove to the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine to attend the SOMA Regional Convention in January, received a $50 prize for arriving with the most students in one vehicle. They were: Ann Dean, Ian Fox, Chris Johnson, Julie Johnson, Edward Loniewski, Fred Lopatin, Danette Skowronski and Brian Smith.

Communique is published monthly by the Office of Health Information at MSU-COM. Editor is Lois Furry. Circulation manager is Beth Wakulsky.
March 7 - 11
Tutorial on Level I
Muscle Energy Technique

Designed to expand previous training in
manual medicine in the area of use of muscle
contraction as an activating force.
To be held at the Tucson Hilton East in
Tucson, Arizona. Prerequisite training is
"Principles of Manual Medicine" for M.D.s
and P.T.s. Sponsored by MSU-COM and
MSU College of Human Medicine. 40 hours
of Category I credit. Cost is $600 or $300 for
physicians in training.

March 10
Family Medicine Conference:
Strategies-Health Risk Assessment and
Intervention

Sponsored by MSU-COM's Department of
Family Medicine. To be held at the Clarion
Hotel and Conference Center in Lansing. 6
hours of Category I credit. Cost is $45 or $15
for physicians in training.

March 19 - 26
Seminar in the Sun

The MSU-COM Alumni Association is
sponsoring a seminar in Puerto Vallarta, one
of Mexico's most famous and luxurious coastal
resorts.
20 hours of Category I credit. Airline
tickets are sold out. CME cost is $300 for
members of the MSU-COM Alumni
Association or $350 for non-members.

April 6 - 10
Tutorial on Direct Action Thrust,
Manipulative Techniques

A five-day intensive course in the principles
and use of direct action high velocity
manipulative therapy. Primary emphasis will
be placed upon the spine, pelvis and thoracic
cage.
Prerequisites are "Principles of Manual
Medicine" and "Level I Muscle Energy
Technique." Sponsored by MSU-COM and
MSU College of Human Medicine. 40 hours
of Category I credit. Cost is $600 or $300 for
physicians in training.

April 15-17
The Differential Diagnosis of
Low Back Pain: An Interdisciplinary
Approach

The course objectives include: presenting
an integrated patient assessment as a basis for
differential diagnosis, diagnostic procedures to
assist in differential diagnosis, the
interrelationship of visceral and somatic
etiologies of low back pain, and using case
histories as models for the problem solving
process in patient management.
Sponsored by MSU-COM. 20 hours of
Category I credit. Cost is $300 or $200 for
physicians in training.

April 30 - May 2
Tutorial on Level I
Myofascial Release Technique

Intensive exposure to basic concepts of
myofascial release manipulative therapy.
Emphasis is placed on direct experiences
giving participants opportunity to test various
forms of motion and motion changes, and
palpate various tissues and forms.
Prerequisite training is "Principles of
Manual Medicine," Sponsored by MSU-COM
and MSU College of Human Medicine. 24
hours of Category I credit. Cost is $375 or
$200 for physicians in training.

Family Medicine
presents preceptor/
Senior partner workshop

A preceptor/senior partner workshop has
been planned for April 23, entitled "The Role
of the Family Practitioner in the Diagnosis and
Treatment of the Substance Abusing Patient."
The following topics will be covered: non-
evasive screening of the potential substance
abusing patient, cocaine/crack and a case
presentation. The workshop is presented by
the Department of Family Medicine.
Feedback in clerkships examined

"The message to faculty is that feedback needs to be offered and that it needs to be specific and oriented to behavior," said Sarah Sprafka, MSU-COM director of evaluation.

The students' responsibility is to ask for specific feedback regarding specific tasks, she said.

Two students in a hospital hallway:
1st: Things are a little less confused for me this week than they were last week. How about you?
2nd: Somewhat. I've been working on my SOAP notes. I'm with Dr. Wood this morning. I wonder if he'll notice.
1st: Well, ask him about it.
2nd: Maybe I will.

In order to more closely examine feedback in clinical clerkships, Sarah Sprafka, associate professor of osteopathic medicine and director of evaluation in the academic affairs office, secured a grant from Funds for Osteopathic Colleges in the United States. This funding source, known as F.O.C.U.S., is coordinated through the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine.

The primary impetus for the project was students saying they didn't get any feedback, Sprafka said. She had also heard "horror stories" of students, who had gotten into academic trouble, telling a committee on student progress that they simply hadn't known they had a problem.

Needs assessment came first in the project. Using the MSU-COM pediatrics clerkship and the Grand Rapids Metropolitan Hospital internal medicine clerkship, Sprafka interviewed students and faculty and observed them in clinical settings. She has been assisted by Norm Smith, a graduate assistant and student in adult education.

She found out that faculty aren't always aware that students want feedback and conversely that students don't seek it often enough. Often feedback is too general, Sprafka said, such as simply telling students they are doing fine.

The message to faculty is that feedback needs to be offered and that it needs to be specific and oriented to behavior," she said.

The students' responsibility is to ask for specific feedback regarding specific tasks.

Both parties also need to be aware of the many forms feedback can take, she said.

"There are many ways beyond sitting down and having a feedback session," she said.

After identifying the needs, Sprafka set out to answer them in a workshop.

She wrote eight vignettes to present positive and negative examples of feedback situations. One of the vignettes was excerpted above. Now on videotape, the vignettes will facilitate discussion and instruction in two-hour workshops for the faculty and students at the interview sites. Afterward, Sprafka will interview and observe again.

The video stars were: Ruth Worthington, associate professor of pediatrics; Douglas Wood, associate dean; Lizabeth Smith, Medical Scientist Training Program student; and Michael Ku, Unit II student.

Sprafka hopes that the results can be applied to clinical evaluation.

"That is a troublesome area," she said. "A lot of ink has been spilled on the subject but no one can seem to figure out how to do it right."