

SDRME President's Report
Louise Arnold
June, 1992 -- June, 1993

Below is a summary of the activities our Society undertook during the past year. They are listed by Society purposes outlined in our By-Laws. We have finalized several of our projects successfully this past year and have laid a foundation for potentially productive work for the future.

Our Society seeks to influence national research policy.

Through the efforts of members of the SDRME/AMA Liaison Committee, Charles Dohner and Carlos Martini, we began discussions with the Bureau of Health Professions about how SDRME could contribute to a proposed national conference "Setting a Research Agenda in Medical Education." Louise Arnold secured a \$ 9,000 contract with the Bureau to compensate the Society for its work on the conference, and Wayne Davis is the Society's representative on the planning committee. Eleven SDRME members will participate in the Conference scheduled for September 19-21, 1993, and four SDRME members will be leaders of working groups. M. Brownell Anderson is providing key staff support.

Our Society promotes scholarship and research in medical education.

The first literature review which we commissioned -- on problem-based learning by Mark Albanese and Susan Mitchell -- was published in the January, 1993, issue of *Academic Medicine*. Mark also presented a synthesis of the results of his meta-analysis on problem-based learning together with the reviews of Berkson and Vernon and Blake at AERA, 1993.

Emil Petrusa is conducting our second literature review -- on the use of standardized patients as an assessment tool.

David Irby will be responsible for our third review -- on cognitive structures and learning in ambulatory settings.

We participated in a Delphi process that Diane Boughton of the University of Southern California organized to identify major issues in medical education. She anticipates that the results will be published.

Our Society collaborates with other medical education organizations, providing consultative resources and advocating educational research and development in medical education.

SDRME/AAMC Liaison

In collaboration with the Group on Educational Affairs, the SDRME/AAMC Liaison Committee continues to design a workshop on change in medical education for deans, associate deans, and others. LuAnn Wilkerson will assume SDRME responsibility for the program.

Six of our members participated in the Olive Branch project that Charles Friedman as GEA Chair of AAMC formulated to improve the climate for research in medical education.

SDRME/AMA Liaison

A summary of the proceedings of the first SDRME/AMA conference "Physicians for the 21st Century: Who Shall Be the Physicians?" appeared in the January, 1993, issue of *Academic Medicine*. Authors from our Society were Charles Friedman, Louise Arnold, Wayne Davis, John Littlefield, and Carlos Martini.

A second SDRME/AMA conference "Planning for Professionalism of Physicians in the 21st Century" is scheduled for the Fall, 1994, in Chicago. Society members currently working on the conference are: Louise Arnold, Peter Coggan, Charles Dohner, John Littlefield, Carlos Martini, Linda Nieman, Linda Rogers, and Ted Whitley.

Ad Hoc Committee on International Medical Education

This committee, with Gordon Page as Chair, has begun to compile a list of directors of research in medical education outside North America. The Executive Committee has requested the committee to explore the feasibility of a future meeting of our Society and international directors. Several international medical educators, Charles Boelen of WHO, Georg Nystrup from the Nordic Federation for Medical Education, and Pablo Pulido from the Pan American Health Organization attended our November, 1992, meeting in New Orleans.

Our Society advances the professional development of members, promotes collaboration among members, and values collegiality.

At our November, 1992, meeting, three of our members -- Penny Jennett, Linda Rogers, and Jon Veloski -- described current research thrusts of their offices.

At our June, 1993, meeting, presentations germane to our professional development included Reed Williams' thoughts on how offices of research in medical education could strengthen their positions within their respective medical schools; Michael Ravitch's review of teaching portfolios in medical education; and Georges Bordage and Arthur Rothman's discussion of graduate degree programs in medical education. Presentations oriented toward content areas in medical education included Emil Petrusa's review of setting standards in clinical practice examinations; a panel discussion by Gordon Page, Dale Dauphinee, Georges Bordage, and Arthur Rothman of innovations in the Canadian examination system; Jacques Des Marchais and Bertrand Dumais' report on strategies used to convert from a traditional to an innovative curriculum at Sherbrooke; and Peter Coggan and Robert Bridgham's identification of issues and research questions in learning in the primary care ambulatory setting.

We invited past members of SDRME to attend our November, 1992, meeting as guests. We are planning a reception for members, past and current, after our November 8, 1993 meeting in Washington, D.C.

Our Society encourages the development of medical education research units in medical schools.

On behalf of our Society, Louise Arnold requested the Liaison Committee on Medical Education to include a question on its annual survey of medical schools

that would elicit data on which institutions have school-wide units responsible for research in medical education.

Because most of the respondents to a 1991-1992 Society survey said our membership criteria were too restrictive, our membership committee with Frank Schimpfhauser as Chair undertook a review of those criteria. It has not yet formulated recommendations but will continue its deliberations. It will also determine whether the Society survey provides data to make informed decisions about membership.

New members of SDRME during 1992-1993 reached six. Three new members -- Lila Croen, Ted Whitley, and Miriam Friedman -- represent offices not previously in SDRME, and three new members -- Ajay Bhardwaj, Helen Leclere, and Paul Mazmanian -- are directors of offices with previous SDRME affiliation. One member, George Nowacek, moved to open a new office at Toledo. One new emeritus member, Edward Rosinski, was added. Five offices represented in SDRME in 1992-93 now do not have directors (University of California San Francisco, University of New Mexico, Ohio State University, University of Pennsylvania, and University of Virginia.) Our total membership, as of June, 1993, equals 38 regular members and 7 emeritus/ex-officio members. Three membership applications are under consideration.

Our Society recognized the work of Jack Maatsch, a former member, by a memorial gift to Michigan State University.

Other activities

Edward Rosinski will update our Society's history.

The Upjohn Company provided external support for our June, 1993, meeting.

Mark Albanese analyzed the Society survey for 1991-1993. Thirty-three of forty members responded.