

# SOCIETY OF DIRECTORS OF RESEARCH IN MEDICAL EDUCATION

---

**EMIL R. PETRUSA, PH.D.**  
*President*  
Duke University School of Medicine  
DUMC 3628  
Durham, NC 27710-3628  
(919) 684-8032 Fax: (919) 681-8195

TO: SDRME Members  
Affiliate Members  
Emeritus Members  
Ex Officio Members  
Guests

May 9, 1996

**MICHAEL M. RAVITCH, PH.D.**  
*President-Elect*  
Northwestern University, Medical School  
Ward Bldg. 3-130  
303 E. Chicago Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60611  
(312) 503-8970 Fax: (312) 503-0840

FROM: Michael M. Ravitch  
1996 Annual Meeting Program Chair



SUBJECT: Program and registration

**LOUISE R. ARNOLD, PH.D.**  
*Treasurer*  
School of Medicine  
University of Missouri-Kansas City  
2411 Holmes  
Kansas City, MO 64108  
(816) 235-1806 Fax: (816) 235-5277

**GORDON PAGE, ED.D.**  
*Secretary*  
#400-2194 Health Sciences Mall  
University of British Columbia  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
CANADA V6G 1Z6  
(604) 822-6641 Fax: (604) 822-2495

**JOHN LITTLEFIELD, PH.D.**  
*Member-at-Large*  
Health Science Center at San Antonio  
University of Texas  
7703 Floyd Curl Drive  
San Antonio, TX 78284-7896  
(210) 567-2280 Fax: (210) 567-2281

**C. MICHAEL BROOKS, ED.D.**  
*Member-at-Large*  
School of Medicine  
University of Alabama at Birmingham  
Box 700, University Station  
Birmingham, AL 35294-0019  
(205) 934-3054 Fax: (205) 934-3278

**FRANK T. SCHIMFHAUSER, PH.D.**  
*Past-President*  
School of Medicine  
SUNY at Buffalo  
40 CSF Addition  
3435 Main Street  
Buffalo, NY 14214  
(716) 829-2811 Fax: (716) 829-2798

---

The Society of Directors of Research in Medical Education will convene its Annual Meeting on July 21-24, 1996 at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville N.C. We will continue our attention to the mission and focus of SDRME. A second theme is the development and structure of RME units, alternative models. Continuing professional education is also enhanced through several workshops. Based on your suggestions from the 1995 Annual Meeting, the Executive Committee has developed this program to stimulate active discussion and participation among all members, with a thematic chord of who we are, our differences and commonalties, our vision, and meeting our challenges.

As always, the most important part of this meeting is the discussion among colleagues who have similar responsibilities, opportunities, problems, and interests. Our meetings serve to strengthen our units and to advance our individual and collective agendas. Y'all come!! Spouses/guests, too!!

While eastern N.C. can be broiling in mid-July, the mountains are moderate - expect daytime temperatures in the 70's to high-80's, cooling off to the 60's at night.

The Grove Park Inn is a gracious resort in the North Carolina mountains. As noted in the enclosed brochure, the Inn has ample recreational opportunities, and the area provides abundant opportunities for camping, sightseeing, antique-ing, history buffs, naturalists - but precious little in urban congestion, pollution or crime.

Note: Our arrangements with the Grove Park Inn provide a reserved block of rooms for the nights of 7/21 - 7/23. Members arriving earlier (Friday or Saturday) are advised to reserve a room at the Holiday Inn Sunspree, but to transfer to the Grove Park on Sunday - our catering, meeting room, and hotel room rates at the Grove Park are based upon estimated occupancies. Please see enclosed information pertaining to hotels -- make all reservations directly with hotels.

**SDRME ANNUAL MEETING  
JULY 21-24, 1996 -- ASHEVILLE, NC  
PRELIMINARY PROGRAM**

*Sun*  
7/21/96  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting  
2 p.m. - 3 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting with New Members

**--- OPENING SESSION ---**

3 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Opening Remarks and SDRME Business Meeting (election results, committee reports, remarks by invited guests, discussion of SDRME business issues, plans/announcements regarding fall meeting and 1997 Annual Meeting, etc.) [This session replaces the "traditional" pre-program business meeting and end-of-program business meeting. Please plan your arrival to participate in this session.]

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. SDRME Collation  
Dinner "on your own" The Inn and Asheville offer a variety of choices. Information will be available upon your arrival at the Inn.

*Mon*  
7/22/96  
7:30 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. Breakfast  
8:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Organizational Models: presentation of alternative models of RME units, with general discussion of pros' and con's and other alternatives.  
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Strategies for Promoting Research - small group discussions followed by plenary meeting and discussion.  
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. SDRME Vision - initial discussion, prelude to 7/23/96 discussions.  
Lunch "on your own" afternoon free  
3:45 p.m. Depart for Biltmore Estate: wine tasting, tours, dinner, entertainment.

*Tue*  
7/23/96  
7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Breakfast  
8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. SDRME Vision - continued discussion  
10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Break  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. SMER (Society for Medical Education Research), GEA (Group on Educational Affairs), SDRME - update and discussion of the plans and proposals  
Lunch "on your own" Afternoon and evening free

*Wednes*  
7/24/96  
7:15 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Breakfast  
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. ADA (American Disabilities Act) Legislation -- implications for medical education  
9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Concurrent Workshops  
Setting Passing Scores for Standardized Patient Examinations  
Negotiating Skills  
Justifying the Effectiveness of Your Unit  
10:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Break  
10:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Concurrent Workshops (repeat - i.e., provides opportunity to take two workshops - one at 9 and another at 10:45)  
12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m. Meeting Closure - brief discussion of emerging business, announcements, etc.

**Society of Directors of Research in Medical Education  
Annual Meeting Program Summary  
July 22-23, 1996;  
Grove Park Inn, Asheville, North Carolina**

**Monday, July 22nd**

**8:15-9:45 am**

**Organizational Models:**

**Penny Jennett, George Nowacek, Michael Brooks**

This session began by breaking the members into three small groups based upon whether they report to the dean, associate dean or VP health sciences. The groups were asked to respond to four questions:

1. What are the advantages and disadvantages of your administrative model?
2. How does the model affect the primary tasks of the unit?
3. How does the model affect the level of support for the unit?
4. How does the model position the office to influence others?

The responses to these questions were presented and discussed in a plenary session chaired by David Cook. A summary of this discussion will be prepared by Penny Jennett and circulated to members.

**10:00-11:00 am**

**SMER, GEA, SDRME**

**Brownie Anderson, Emil Petrusa**

Brownie Anderson described the proposed reorganization of the GEA. Each school dean will be asked to identify reps for UME, GME, RIME, and CME, and each of these constituent groups will be asked to appoint a member to the GEA Steering Committee. In addition to the four deans' appointees to the GEA, any other faculty can join one or more of the subgroups. For example, in the RIME group, 142 people would be appointed from the 142 schools in the U.S. and Canada. In addition, any other interested faculty could apply to belong to RIME.

Brownie reviewed the history of the proposal to develop a Society for Medical Educational Research (SMER) which, if established, she sees as replacing the current RIME group. Presently the proposal seems to be losing momentum because the principal advocates (Chuck Friedman, Georges Bordage, ...) have moved on to other interests. Brownie asked the group to review the rationale for such a society. Elements of this rationale seen by her were:

- demonstration of the maturation of this area of academic.
- mentoring new researchers.
- fellowships in medical education.
- possible lobbying activities (strength in numbers).

Brownie asked what opportunities SDRME saw if SMER were established, and what our views were for moving the RIME and GEA Conferences to a separate meeting from the AAMC Annual Meeting.

Moving the RIME and GEA sessions to a separate meeting was seen to have both advantages and disadvantages. Disadvantages include additional time away for many meeting participants and a potential loss of visibility with the deans and other administrators for medical education research. An opposing suggestion was to mount a greater effort to integrate RIME sessions with the plenary lecture program at the AAMC Meeting.

There was no consensus of opinion from the group on either the new Society question or moving RIME and GEA sessions to a separate meeting. There appeared to be no strong support for SMER from any members of SDRME present.

**11:00-11:30 am                    Bureau of Health Professions (BHP)**  
**Marcia Brand, Frank Stritter**

Marcia is a member of the Office of Research and Planning at BHP (with Herb Traxler). She presented an overview of the Bureau's organization and the programs it supports, with a focus on the Division of Research and Planning. This Division is concerned primarily with health professions training, and research related to this training. Marcia described the process of project authorization and the process of appropriating funds for these projects. She indicated that funds for medical education research centres were eliminated from their budgets for fiscal 1996 and 1997 (beginning October 1 of each year), and noted that it is doubtful that funding will be restored. Frank Stritter described his attempts to lobby support for the centres, and also indicated that the outlook for continued support was not good.

**11:45-12:30 pm                    SDRME Vision**  
**John Littlefield, Frank Schimpfhauser**

John Littlefield introduced the session explaining that it was a continuation of a discussion, lead by Chuck Dohner, that began at last year's Annual Meeting. This year's discussion was to be spread over two sessions: In the first session Frank Schimpfhauser presented background information, followed by Sheila Chauvin and Bonnie Jones who offered the perspective of two new members on the role of SDRME.

Frank began by distributing and reviewing Chuck's transparencies from the 1995 Annual Meeting. He also handed out summaries from four group discussions, from last year, that focused on (1) professional development needs of ourselves and our offices, (2) society visibility and growth, (3) promoting medical educational research, evaluation, development, etc., and (4) international relationships and needs.

Bonnie Jones presented her "Top 10 List" of ways that SDRME could assist her as a new member.

10. Nice places to visit re: Annual Meeting
9. A list serve not full of junk
8. Another reason to push our school to develop a real Web page

7. By making me as knowledgeable about computers as George Nowacek so I can stand up to the computer gurus in my school
6. Meet people from funding groups even if I don't get funded
5. Get examples from medical education of difficult to understand statistical techniques
4. Getting to know other directors as more than names on a piece of paper
3. Tips for how to have a few more people working in my office
2. By making my office more valuable to the school (e.g., survival tactics)
1. By making me figure out how we can increase our salaries (e.g., mark's survey salary data)

Sheila Chauvin joined Tulane in 1995 and established a new office of medical education in that school. She felt that there was a great deal of wisdom and history among SDRME members that would assist her in applying her skills and establishing her credibility in her school, and in surviving beyond the first three to five years of her appointment.

## **Tuesday July 23rd**

### **8:30 - 10:00 am                    SDRME Vision -- Continued**

John Littlefield introduced this session as a continuation of yesterday's discussion of where the Society is heading and what it should be doing in four broad areas:

1. Professional development needs of ourselves and our offices (Sheila Chauvin)
2. Society visibility and growth (Lorne Williams)
3. Promoting medical education research, development, evaluation (Mark)
4. International relationships and needs (Chuck Dohner)

Each of these areas was assigned to a small group (lead by the individuals named above) to identify the priority issues that should be addressed by the Society and the activities that should be pursued in addressing them. Reports from each group were presented for discussion in a plenary session.

John Littlefield will provide a summary of the group reports for distribution to the members.

### **10:30-12:00 noon                    Strategies for Promoting Research Jon Veloski, Gordon Page**

The goal of this session was to encourage members to think more about generating research activities around routine service requests, and to be introduced to strategies that other members have used to do this effectively. Following a brief introduction by Jon Veloski, four common service requests were considered by three small groups, with a view to discussing how they would develop research initiatives out of these requests. A plenary discussion followed, of the steps and strategies to employ in addressing the requests. A handout from Wayne Davis was

circulated that described research projects that evolved from service requests at the University of Michigan. Jon Veloski will provide a summary of strategies discussed in this session.

### **Wednesday July 24th**

#### **8:00 9:00 am American Disabilities Act (ADA) Bonnie Jones, Louise Arnold**

Bonnie Jones and Louise Arnold discussed the ADA, its implications for medical schools, and the steps that schools should take to protect against the need to accommodate inappropriate requests from students with disabilities or professed disabilities. Louise urged that schools develop a legally supportable policy statement on disabled students, and an intimate familiarity with the definitions and regulations in the ADA. Schools need to follow due process, carefully document all issues, and work closely with legal council in responding to requests related to disability.

#### **9:00-10:15 am Concurrent Workshops**

Three concurrent workshops were offered:

- Setting passing scores for standardized patient examinations  
John Shatzer, Frank Schimpfhauser
- Negotiation: Getting to yes in curricular change  
David Cook, Gordon Page, Michael Ravitch
- Justifying the effectiveness of your unit  
William Anderson, John Littlefield

#### **10:45-12:00 noon Concurrent Workshops**

The workshops were repeated, enabling each member to take two of the three.

#### **12:00-12:30 pm Meeting Closure**

Mike Ravitch thanked all the people who were involved in planning the meeting, with particular thanks to Emil Petrusa and his secretary Helen Woodlief. The local arrangements and venue were superb. Emil, as outgoing President, turned the gavel over to Mike as incoming 1996-97 President.