

## Advising System for Medical Students: Years 1-4

Several significant changes have occurred in the advising system for students in Years 1-4. For incoming **Year 4 (current year 3)** students in 2012, we ask that they continue to utilize their current *clinical advisors* to assist with career selection, networking with physicians including residency program directors in various departments, scheduling, and academic progress. Only current and incoming year 4 students (current year 3 students) in 2012 will be able select a *clinical advisor* if necessary.

**Faculty advisors:** The faculty advisor system went into effect for Year 1 students in 2010. There are seven faculty advisors in the Twin Cities, six in Duluth. These individuals have been selected because of their specific interest in advising students. Each has the approval and recommendation of their department head. The faculty advisors on the Duluth campus are a continuation of the learning communities. Each faculty advisor on the Twin Cities campus has been assigned 24-25 students per year and each on the Duluth campus has assigned 10 students per year. Faculty advisors are in place in 2012 for the current year 1 students and the current year 2 students on both campuses and will continue to work with these student throughout all 4 years of medical school. The responsibilities for faculty advisors include the following:

- follow academic progress/performance
- assist with curriculum planning/schedule preparation
- provide career counseling/networking/contact with clinical mentors (see below)
- provide advice on special interests (e.g. Flexible MD, RPAP, Research, LOAs, summer preceptorships, International experience)
- prepare MSPEs (Dean's Letter)
- provide support/assistance
- attend large and small group sessions as Graduation, Match Day

Faculty advisors on the Duluth and Twin Cities campuses have been *paired* with one another to assist in the transition of students on the Duluth campus to the Twin Cities campus in year 3.

### Faculty Advisors

#### Duluth Campus

Ray Christensen  
Joy Dorscher  
Sue Nordin  
Jennifer Pearson  
Jake Prunushe  
Ruth Westra

#### Twin Cities Campus

Jane Lewis  
David Satin  
Nersi Nikakhtar  
Peter Weissmann  
Holly Boyer  
Marshall Hertz

Ted Thompson

**The faculty advisors have replaced the role of clinical advisors for incoming year 3 students (current Year 2 students).**

***Clinical mentors:*** A new group of physicians has been selected to assist medical students in networking, career selection, and residency program selection. The clinical mentors program began in January 2012 with 2-10 clinical mentors selected from each department by the residency program directors (often clinical mentors themselves) and department heads. These individuals have a sincere interest in working with students in career and residency selection. They know about the specific specialty career and about which residency programs would be appropriate for the student. They will provide ongoing support and assistance but will **NOT** be responsible for academic progress, schedule preparation or MSPE preparation for students. The names of the clinical mentors are outlined on the web at the following URL:

<http://www.meded.umn.edu/year34/mentors.php>

The clinical mentors will be available **through faculty advisors** to the incoming year 3 students and clinical advisors for incoming year 4 students beginning in January 2012. We ask that meetings be arranged through the faculty advisors initially so that the clinical mentors are not overloaded. We envision that a clinical mentor will be working with only 1-2 students at a time. In future years, we hope to make the clinical mentors available to year 1 and 2 students although the AAMC Careers in Medicine program and the specialty series in year 2 serve a similar purpose for year 1 and 2 students.

Questions: Please contact Theodore Thompson ([thomp005@umn.edu](mailto:thomp005@umn.edu))