

### **General Objectives**

*The physician graduating from the College of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan will possess the knowledge, skills and attitudes basic to all physicians such that he/she may satisfactorily proceed to further training in any area of the profession.*

*The primary objective is that the physician be able to identify, analyze and manage clinical problems in a way that provides effective, efficient and humane patient care.*

*The student who has achieved the general objectives will demonstrate competence in the following areas at the level of expertise of a new graduate:*

### **Physician as Medical Expert/Decision Maker**

Demonstrate knowledge of normal human development, structure and function from a biological, psychological and social perspective.

Develop knowledge of medical vocabulary, facts, concepts, principles, laws, methods and procedures as demonstrated by the ability to:

- Use them to explain relevant clinical phenomena
- Use them to manage biological and clinical problems

Describe the natural history of a discrete number of common and important diseases.

Explain the basic facts and concepts necessary to practice effective preventive medicine including:

- Describe, with advantages and disadvantages, the use of appropriate immunization procedures in the prevention of disease
- Recognize and assess the influence of environmental factors on patient's problems
- Recognize risk factors for the development of specific diseases
- Explain common screening procedures and their interpretation based on critical review of the relevant evidence.

Detect and interpret significant physical signs by inspection, percussion, palpation and auscultation and use them in creating a diagnosis.

Demonstrate skill in using various clinical and laboratory instruments (e.g. ophthalmoscope, stethoscope).

Demonstrate skill in performing common technical procedures (e.g. measurement of blood pressure, venepuncture).

Acquire information required to solve problems.

Adapt the history and physical examination to the requirements of the situation.

Obtain required information by using appropriate sources (e.g. selection of appropriate clinical and laboratory procedures, library and other sources).

Define the patient's problem within the context of their life situations (e.g. person, family, community).

Evaluate the urgency or seriousness of a situation and act appropriately.

Form a set of tentative hypotheses or diagnoses.

Initiate appropriate procedures for checking the hypotheses.

Revise and re-evaluate the tentative hypotheses and/or treatment plan based on new information and/or response to treatment.

Conscientiously maintain accurate patient records and files.

### **Physician as Communicator/Educator/Humanist/Healer**

Conduct patient-centered interviews that explore the patient's feelings, ideas, impact on function and expectation and provide the rationale.

Develop relationships with patients characterized by compassion, empathy, respect and genuineness.

Demonstrate a willingness to collaborate with the patient about management.

Perform a comprehensive physical examination without causing the patient embarrassment.

Adapt treatment plans with consideration for the patient's age, general health, special needs, expectations, cultural background, progress or changes in condition.

Communicate information with explanations that are clear, concise and understandable to patients.

Counsel patients on risk reduction.

Balance the patient's welfare against a need for precision when faced with a clinically ambiguous situation.

Abide by the principles in the Code of Ethics as published by the Canadian Medical Association and keep informed of changes in the code.

### **Physician as Health Advocate**

Use specialized knowledge and skills to contribute to the well-being of both the community and individual patients.

Identify the rights and legal responsibilities of physicians to patients and the community.

Describe the determinants of health and apply them appropriately to enhance individual and community well being.

Apply "cost-effectiveness" to public health interventions.

### **Physician as Learner/Scholar/Scientist**

Demonstrate skill in self-directed learning by:

- Identifying areas of deficiency and strength in one's own knowledge and skills
- Finding appropriate educational resources
- Evaluating personal learning progress
- Using new knowledge in the care of patients
- Learning and applying the scientific method

Evaluate the validity and applicability of published data through critical appraisal in consultation with others.

Develop the self-knowledge necessary for personal growth and continuous learning.

Critique the scientific method and its application to individual and population problems.

Support and value the work of scientists as vital to the health of the population.

Assess the effectiveness of current practices and engage in continuous quality improvement.

### **Physician as Collaborator**

Work effectively as a member of a team.

Collaborate effectively with patients and families without always taking charge.

Find common ground when differences of opinion exist.

Communicate effectively and cooperatively with peers and colleagues engaged in education, research and health care.

Establish effective relationships with colleagues and other members of the health care team by:

- Considering their suggestions and criticisms
- Tactfully handling differences of opinion
- Providing support and direction to less experienced personnel

Recognize personal subjective perspectives and ensure that they do not interfere with the patient's best interests.

### **Physician as Resource Manager/Gatekeeper/Steward**

Explain the structure and function of the Canadian Health Care System and its major components.

Assist patients in accessing the health care system for physical, psychological, social and economic rehabilitation or long-term care.

Identify potential conflict between individual and population health interests and seek advice from others, including ethicists when necessary, to help resolve issues.

### **Physician as Person**

Explain personal assets, perspectives and limitations.

Be willing to seek help, advice or consultation when needed.

Accept that physicians cannot be "all things to all people".

Respond to personal and family needs and develop effective personal support systems.