

CPD/CME

CONNECTIONS

A quarterly newsletter brought to you by the Office for Continuous Professional Development



GREETINGS TO ALL!

by Lori Deitte, MD, & Monique Drago, MA, EdD

It's that time of year when the air is turning crisp and a scent of pumpkin spice surrounds us. It is a beautiful, colorful time of the year. A time for reflection and gratitude. A time to reflect on the amazing work of our CME Program and You as our partners.

We recently completed the reaccreditation process, which was a tremendous undertaking. We are grateful to all of you for your help with gathering integral information for our reaccreditation report. This was truly a collaborative effort!

Now we wait until March 2024 for the final outcome of this process. As we enter this special season, we wish you and your loved ones joy, gratitude, and good health.

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NEW COMMERCIAL SUPPORT PROCESS



In order to be more fully compliant with ACCME regulations, VUMC OCPD is changing our Commercial Support process. Commercial Support is defined as financial or in-kind support from ineligible companies (those whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients).

Beginning immediately, the VUMC Office for Continuous Professional Development (OCPD)/CME will oversee the management of all new commercial support requests. The Activity Planners and CME Associates will continue to perform their current procedures on the timeline that aligns with their CME activity, but the process from beginning to end will be tracked and overseen by OCPD. If you are planning on requesting commercial support for a CME activity, please contact us as soon as possible at commsupp@vumc.org. Our office will provide a funding request letter template and a template Letter of Agreement (LOA). Utilizing these documents, the Activity Planner and/or CME Associate will then send the initial emails to the companies to request commercial support, copying our office at commsupp@vumc.org on these requests. The Activity Planner and/or CME Associate will then continue their correspondence with the companies and submit the grant applications.

The LOA must be signed by the company and OCPD. These steps must all be completed and in place prior to the start of the accredited education event. No funds can be received without a fully executed LOA.

Once the funds are disbursed to OCPD, we will have the funds transferred to the CME Associate/department.

If you are planning to request commercial support for a CME activity, please contact us as soon as possible at commsupp@vumc.org so that we may begin overseeing the management of this process with you.

For the full policy and procedures, including restrictions on use of funds, please view the [VUMC OCPD Standard Operating Procedures on Commercial Support](#) document on our Resources page.

Please note: Our Commercial Support policy only includes our OCPD office overseeing the management of financial support through education grants and in-kind support. This policy does not include exhibits/vendors, which need a signed agreement managed by the CME Associate and submitted to OCPD prior to the accredited activity/course.



NEW CME FEE PRICE RESTRUCTURE



The OCPD engaged in a thoughtful process to evaluate needed resources to provide quality service for CME course activities developed by our VUMC departments that engage external attendees. We are in the process of revising our current fee structure and plan to include the new structure in our December 2023 newsletter. These fees will be implemented for CME course activities that take place on July 1, 2024 and moving forward. The current fee structure is valid for courses taking place through June 30, 2024.



SPOTLIGHT ON: KELLY HARPER, CME ASSOCIATE

Kelly Harper, BPS, Research Program Manager, Movement Disorders, Department of Neurology, helps lead a team working on clinical trials as well as a series of annual medical education programs for Neurology residents and junior faculty from all over North America.

Kelly, how do you manage to do all that you do? "I could not possibly manage to do all the things I do without my amazing team! I work with a phenomenal group of individuals who each bring a unique strength to the table. Together, we can accomplish almost anything! I'm also a huge fan of paper checklists. They keep me organized and on track, and it's so satisfying to cross off a completed task."

What are five interesting things about you? "When my son was entirely too young to be so facetious, he told me I should start a podcast called 'A One-Hour Story About Five Minutes of My Day.' According to him (and my husband), I include too many details when telling a story. While it might not be ideal in social settings, my attention to detail seems to serve me well professionally!

My mom was very interested in genealogy. She researched our family tree and learned that we are descendants of an infamous clan of Scottish outlaws! Mom always thought we had Irish heritage and only discovered our Scottish heritage after giving all her children Irish names.

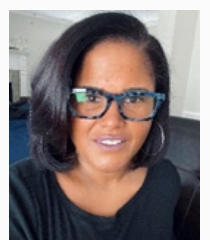
I really enjoy hiking in the woods behind my neighborhood. There are some paths, but no marked trails. I also have a notoriously horrible sense of direction. I frequently get lost and stumble upon something awesome. I've found crumbling barns, foundations from old homes, and ancient farming equipment. Unfortunately, I never know how to get back to my amazing discoveries and just have to wait to stumble upon them again.

I know the names of most of the dogs in my neighborhood, but I only know the names of a handful of my human neighbors. My dog, Frank, on the other hand, is best friends with every human he encounters, and he tolerates exactly three of our canine neighbors.

Finally, my secret superpower is finding four-leaf clovers. I'm usually not even looking for them; I can just glance down and spot one. I'd say it's the luck of the Irish but, according to my mother, that would be inaccurate."

LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

Monique Drago, Director of OCPD, will be leaving VUMC December 29, 2023 for a new opportunity. We will miss her expertise, passion for education, and collaboration, and we are grateful for her contributions over the 3.5 years she spent at VUMC. We wish her well in her future endeavors! Thank you, Monique!





MOC II UPDATE

American Board of Surgery & Continuous Certification Update

If you are a diplomate of the American Board of Surgery (ABS), ABS recently changed its CME and MOC processes.

Effective July 1, 2023, ABS retired self-reporting of CME credits by their diplomates. We are pleased to share that beginning July 1st, two conferences were set up to award ABS MOC II: Surgical Grand Rounds and Surgery MMI. We anticipate setting up additional conferences to award ABS MOC II beginning January 1, 2024. In order for your CloudCME account to record ABS MOC II credit, it is imperative you configure your account to record these credits as soon as possible. We are not able to retroactively award MOC II credits and unfortunately, you will not receive ABS MOC II if your account is not configured correctly.

Please visit our [website](#) for information regarding ABS MOC timelines, how to configure your account so your credit can be properly recorded, and other important information regarding ABS Continuous Certification meetings at VUMC.



CME THAT COUNTS FOR MOC

Now is a wonderful time to check your [CloudCME profile](#) to ensure your profile is set up to record MOC II credit for qualifying events you attend at VUMC. Setting up your account for MOC II credit is fast and easy. Most of all, it is convenient - we report the MOC II credits to your Board, on your behalf, once a quarter.

For MOC eligible activities a diplomate attends, our office will report MOC to the following Boards:

- American Board of Anesthesiology: ABA MOCA Part II & ABA MOCA Patient Safety
- American Board of Internal Medicine
- American Board of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery
- American Board of Pathology
- American Board of Pediatrics
- American Board of Surgery: Surgery Grand Rounds & Surgery MMI effective 7/1/23



Unfortunately, MOC II cannot be reported retroactively. The earlier your account is set up the more MOC II credits you can earn toward your Board's Maintenance of Certification or Continuing Certification program.

If you are already earning MOC II credit, you are all set and there is nothing more for you to do. If you are not currently Boarded, please do not set up your account until you are fully Boarded with your participating Board – the credits will not transfer over and will need to be removed from your account.

You can read more about our MOC II program, including participating Boards, through [this link](#). You can find instructions for setting up your account for MOC II credit by accessing [this link](#). You can access our CloudCME website and your profile [here](#).

For any questions regarding the MOC program, please email mocportfolio@vumc.org.





CPD'S DISCLOSURE PROCESS

The Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education are designed to ensure that accredited continuing education serves the needs of patients and the public, is based on valid content, and is free from commercial influence. CPD implemented a new disclosure process and timeframes January 2022 which apply to all continuing education activities:

- All CME activities are required to have disclosures completed no later than **10-business days** prior to the activity start date.
- If we request a presentation to review, it must be uploaded into CloudCME no later than **5-business days** prior to the activity start date.
- If changes are requested for the presentation due to a conflict of interest, the updated presentation must be uploaded no later than **3-business days** prior to the activity start date.

Our goal is to maintain compliance with our regulatory body while ensuring we make the process efficient and effective for us all. If you would like to review the disclosure process, the presentation can be found [here](#). Some of the most common FAQs regarding the disclosure process and timeframes can be found [here](#). For more information on the disclosure process or to review other helpful how-to articles for activity directors, CME associates, and learners, please visit our [Resources](#) page.

Sun

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Tue

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Sat

APPLICATION REVIEW PAUSE



As we approach the end of the year rush, we will be pausing the review of all new activity applications from Friday December 8, 2023 through Friday February 2, 2024. This means that any activity applications not submitted prior to December 8 will not be reviewed until after February 2. The system will still be open for you to work on and submit applications, however, you will not hear from our team regarding your application during these dates. If you have already submitted an application, it is currently in our queue for review.

Please note: we will be pausing the review of all new activity applications from 12/8/2023 - 2/2/2024.



AEE “ACADEMY AWARDS”

Academy for Excellence in Education (AEE).

Member Highlights, Interviews, and Tips



Lealani Mae Y. Acosta, MD, MPH, FAAN

Lealani Mae Y. Acosta, MD, is an associate professor of neurology and a board-certified neurologist specializing in neurodegenerative memory disorders. Her range of publications reflects varied neurological interests, including peer-reviewed research articles in cognitive and behavioral neurology, creative writing (prose and poetry), and fiber arts, with publications in *Neurology*, *JAMA*, and *JAMA Neurology*. She is a clinician educator, serving as the Behavioral Neurology and Neuropsychiatry fellowship director and the Chapman College Mentor at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.

What brings you joy as an educator?

“Seeing the lightbulb moment when a learner applies the textbook learning to patient care. I also supervise the Neurology department’s Lumbar Puncture (LP) Clinic, so helping the residents become more confident with identifying landmarks and approaches to improve their LP success rate is also exciting. I have an assortment of brain-themed hats that I’ve knit, such as an anatomical model of Einstein’s brain or the skull of Phineas Gage, complete with a tamping rod going through the orbit, which I wear around the medical center and running errands in town. People, including non-medical passerby, are often intrigued by the hats, which gives the opportunity to talk about the brain and teach them a little neurological history.”

What has been the best part of being in the AEE?

“I’ve appreciated the opportunities to network with other physicians who are passionate about education. I hadn’t realized before joining how many initiatives the AEE has, so I’m excited to get more involved.”

An Educational Tip from Dr. Acosta:

“My favorite question to ask a new team is to have each person, whether a medical student, resident, or fellow, tell me something about themselves completely unrelated to medicine. I’ve learned about interesting hobbies (e.g., making kombucha) or skills (e.g., baking, which often leads to bakers bringing in treats!) that our trainees have. This added dimension helps us all to get to know each other as individuals, which strengthens our teaching relationship. I repeat this as team members rotate off and new ones join, so those who remain on the team share an additional fact, which adds to the fun.”

EDP WORKSHOPS



Educator Development Program (EDP).

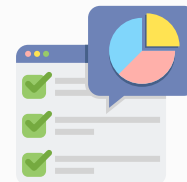
- Identifying Microaggressions in the Educational Environment: Thur, Jan 11, 1-3pm. [Register](#)
 - Mentoring Educational Projects: Wed, Feb 21, 1-3pm. [Register](#)
 - Incorporating Tech in Teaching: Quizzes, Modules, Social Media: Wed, Mar 6, 1-3pm. [Register](#)
 - Using Simulation in Education: Thur, Apr 11, 1-3pm. [Register](#)
 - Building Your Educational Portfolio: Fri, May 24, 1-3pm. [Register](#)
-

CPD UPDATES

We have just completed our reaccreditation virtual site visit for the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) and look forward to the results this coming spring. Thank you again to everyone we reached out to for additional information from your event. We appreciate all you do for continuing education.

What to look out for this fall:

1. Approved RSS Renewals for MOC and Group B events
2. Recurring Course Renewals
3. Updated Pricing Model



Regarding RSS Renewals:

Thank you to everyone who returned their 2024 MOC and Group B renewals documents by the September 29 deadline! If you were not able to submit your materials in time, please complete them as soon as possible using the instructions sent via email. Current series are approved through 12/31/23 and late submissions will be processed in the order received with credits resuming approximately 90 days after submission. Group A series are approved through 12/31/24 and do not need a renewal application until next summer.

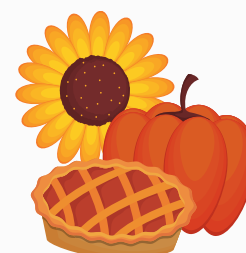
CME REMINDERS

Some friendly reminders from your CME Team:



- Activity applications are due *120 days in advance* of the activity start date for Courses and *90 days in advance* of the activity start date for RSS applications.
- The OCPD Office will now oversee the management of all new commercial support requests, and all new funds disbursed will now be routed through the OCPD Office.
- No promotions of an activity can occur prior to approval.
- Activity presentations do not need to be submitted unless they are requested by a CME team member.
- All participants in an activity should text in the CME code regardless of CME eligibility -- the code is also used to record attendance.
- Courses must submit a new application every calendar year (*120 days in advance*).
- Course invoices and final budgets are due upon request.
- If you cancel, postpone, or reschedule your activity for any reason, please alert us right away.

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