Continuing Medical Education Committee Report to the General Faculty

November 2023

The Continuing Medical Education Committee (CMEC) is one of the permanent committees of the University of Arizona, College of Medicine-Tucson (COM-T). The CMEC and the Office of Continuing Medical Education (OCME) approves continuing medical education (CME) policy, provides oversight of CME activities, and assures the approved policies and activities meet accreditation standards for continuing medical education. The current CME Committee members and COM-T support staff are below.

Committee Members as of July 2023:

1. Nicholas Hurst, MD, MS, Assistant Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine (6/2022 - 6/2025) hurst@arizona.edu, Chair
2. Allison Thoeny, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Anesthesiology (6/2023-6/2026) athoeny@arizona.edu, Vice Chair
3. Adrienne Yarnish, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine (6/2022 - 6/2025) adrienney@arizona.edu
4. Helene Felman, MD, Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Chief, Division of General Pediatrics (6/2021 - 6/2024) hfelman@email.arizona.edu
5. Rajesh Kotagiri, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine (6/2022 - 6/2025) rkotagiri@arizona.edu
6. Garrett Pacheco, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine (6/2021-6/2024) gpacheco@aemrc.arizona.edu
7. Carrie Luu, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery (6/2023-6/2024) carrielu@arizona.edu
8. Rohit Madan, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry (6/2023-6/2026) rmadan@arizona.edu
9. Monica Davini, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics (6/2023-6/2025) mdavini@peds.arizona.edu
10. Megan Matz, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics (6/2023-6/2024) megsmatz@arizona.edu
Support Staff:

- Randa Kutob, MD, MPH, Director, Office of Continuing Medical Education, Associate Professor, Department of Family & Community Medicine
  rkutob@arizona.edu

- Robert Amend, MEd, Assistant Director, Office of Continuing Medical Education
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- Denise Garrett, Program Coordinator, Senior, Office of Continuing Medical Education
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- Cheryl Novalis-Marine, MBA, MS MIS, Senior Applications Architect, Office of Continuing Medical Education
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Educational Activities:

The UArizona College of Medicine – Tucson has been accredited by the ACCME since 1986 and remains dedicated to providing high-quality educational activities in support of its mission to increase knowledge, advance physician competence, improve clinical performance, and provide the best care possible for patients. In March 2019, COM-T received accreditation with commendation. The commendation status is the highest status awarded by the ACCME, currently achieved by less than 25% of all accredited providers of CME. The commendation status recognizes institutions that are engaged in quality initiatives within their health systems and their communities.

Every CME activity has to comply with criteria for development, funding, presentation and evaluation. Since the COM-T serves our academic community, activities originate from faculty members of the College of Medicine-Tucson (direct activities) and from outside organizations (joint providers). Activities include enduring materials (e.g., online educational programs); live events (e.g., conferences); and regularly scheduled series (e.g., grand rounds). Table 1 below lists the CME activities by type over the last nine calendar years. In general, COM-T has consistently expanded its CME presence within the institution and community. A decline in live
Events occurred in 2020, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to supporting activity directors to produce excellent CME activities, the OCME directly develops and disseminates activities regionally and nationally via the COM-T-owned site, The Virtual Lecture Hall (www.VLH.com). As Table 1 demonstrates, the overall number of CME activities has increased by over 50% in the last nine years, increasing the CME footprint of the COM-T locally, regionally, and nationally.

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<td><strong>Total Regularly Scheduled Series (RSS)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Activities</strong></td>
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<td>145</td>
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**Online CME Content that Targets National Trends and Meets Licensure Requirements:**

The COM-T also maintains a significant online presence. The OCME offers interactive, evidence-based, online medical education programs on a wide variety of topics, many of which are required for licensure or renewal of licensure in over 40 states. Examples include courses on medical errors prevention, medical ethics, risk management, patient safety, professional responsibility, cultural competency, and safe opioid prescribing. Several of the courses were developed with grant support from the National Institute of Health (NIH). In 2021, the CME
The Committee created the course, *Professionalism and Patient Care*, funded by a Banner University Medical Staff grant to educate physicians about common professionalism concerns. Since 2013, physicians and other health professionals have earned over 89,000 hours of CME credit through online coursework at VLH.com. College of Medicine faculty in both Tucson and Phoenix, as well as community preceptors, can receive up to 10 free credits of CME ($250 value) at VLH.com to be used towards courses on this site.

*Continuing Medical Education Committee Activities and Accomplishments Highlights, 2022-2023*

1. The CME Committee reviewed and approved live conferences, grand rounds, and enduring materials accredited by the OCME. (See Table 1 above.)

2. Over the past year, the CME Committee and OCME has worked closely as part of the CME Working Group convened by Dean Abecassis to create the Academy, a CME initiative that represents a collaboration between the UArizona COM-T and Banner Health to highlight our outstanding departments and programs by providing CME and networking opportunities for UArizona/Banner and community faculty. The CME Committee chair serves as a member of the CME Working Group.

The CME Committee and OCME provided input regarding content for two Academy CME events, *Safe Opioid Prescribing and Innovations in Pain Management* on January 10, 2023 and *Where Do We Go From Here? Understanding Long COVID* on April 19, 2023. The CME Committee also suggested topics for future events.

3. Also, as part of the Academy initiative, the CME Committee supported the purchase of the CloudCME application system. This represents a major upgrade of our current system and includes an event management app; a platform for posting live or pre-recorded video thereby converting a live event to enduring content; attendance tracking; and CME tools that are aligned with current best CME practices and accreditation requirements.

*Conclusion*
The Continuing Medical Education Committee supports and develops high quality CME that promotes the goals and enhances the reputation of the UAri zona and COM-T by addressing local and national educational gaps, supporting institutional quality improvement initiatives, and ultimately enhancing physicians’ abilities to provide excellent care to patients.