



REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **AAMC Delphi Study on Information Technology: Preliminary Report and Invitation to Participate**

### **Background**

In August of 1999, the AAMC (Association of American Medical Colleges) began a study of how information technology and the Internet might change medical education, health care, research and information management over the next 10 years. Phase 1 of the Delphi Study had three rounds and was conducted fully via the Internet. Invited participants included deans of medical schools, nursing schools and schools of public health; CEOs of teaching hospitals; medical informatics experts; health sciences library directors; curriculum leaders in medicine; and basic science department chairs in medical schools.

### **Join the Study**

Phases 2 and 3 of the Delphi Study have now begun and are open to all interested parties. To participate, go to <http://pnet400.aamc.org/delphi/login.cfm>. At this site you are asked to score a set of statements in terms of the probability and desirability of their occurrence in the next 10 years. You can also add new statements to the pool. After you complete Round 2, you may enter Round 3. In Round 3, you see your Round 2 scores and also the mean scores for all other participants. You are invited to change your previous score if you choose.

Every six weeks mean scores are refreshed and the list of statements in Rounds 2 and 3 is revised. You are welcome to return to the study as many times as you wish. Instructions for each activity are given as you work through the screens.

### **More Information**

Summary results are available for the initial phase of the Delphi Study at [http://www.aamc.org/better\\_health/phase1.htm](http://www.aamc.org/better_health/phase1.htm). If you have questions, send e-mail to [better\\_health@aamc.org](mailto:better_health@aamc.org) with the subject "delphi study question," or contact the Project Director, Valerie Florance, PhD, at: [vflorance@aamc.org](mailto:vflorance@aamc.org).

## **van der Vleuten and Swanson Honored by *TLM***

Last year, in honor of their late, founding Editor, the journal *Teaching and Learning in Medicine (TLM)* last year established the Terrill A. Mast *TLM* Excellence Award. This award is to be given for an outstanding article, published in *TLM*, that has made a significant contribution to medical education. The first awardees are Cees van der Vleuten and David B. Swanson for their article, “Assessment of clinical skills with standardized patients: state of the art,” which appeared in *TLM* in Volume number 2, 1990, pp. 58–76. In explaining their choice of this article, *TLM* Editor Paul Feltovitch said, “This article is clearly a deserving recipient. It has been highly influential and cited well over 100 times in the journals tracked for the *Science Citation Index*, and these references show no signs of declining.”

## **US Students in Community Service: New Publication Highlights Medical Students’ Involvement in Community Service**

The findings of the AAMC’s Medical School Graduation Questionnaire (GQ) indicate that US medical students’ volunteer activities in communities have increased in recent years. The latest issue of *Contemporary Issues in Medical Education (CIME)*, “Medical Education through Community Service,” examines medical student community service trends and several programs that were developed at US medical schools to help involve medical students in the community. This and other issues of *CIME* can be viewed online at [www.aamc.org/meded/edres/cime](http://www.aamc.org/meded/edres/cime).

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## **“Our Digital Future”**

Jordan J. Cohen, M.D., president of the Association of American Medical Colleges, offered some interesting reflections on the promises and perils of digital medicine in a talk he gave to graduating medical students recently. He says digital medicine has the potential to improve the health of all individuals and communities, but warns that it “cannot eradicate our need, especially when ill, for human contact, for a trusting relationship, and for a caring physician.” You can read the full text of his comments at: < <http://www.aamc.org/newsroom/pressrel/000521.htm> >