

**REENTRY TO CLINICAL MEDICINE
DREXEL MEDICINE® PHYSICIAN REFRESHER/REENTRY COURSE
REFLECTING ON THE FIRST TWO YEARS**

Purpose: Increasingly, physicians who have left clinical practice wish to reenter the workforce. Reasons for departure may vary: family obligations, medical/psychiatric disability, administrative roles in industry or academia, or a revoked medical license. Historically, upon return, little retraining has been required by the healthcare industry. Recently, however, various organizations are attempting to evaluate such physicians' clinical competence and credentialing and suggest the need for retraining. In light of the impending physician shortages, and building on a program developed by its historic predecessor, the Medical College of Pennsylvania, Drexel University College of Medicine (DUCOM) developed an innovative retraining/re-entry program in November 2006. This program targets the needs of physicians wishing to return to active clinical practice, change their specialty, or if an international medical graduate, prepare for residency training in the United States. This abstract presents data collected between November 2006 and March 2009.

Methods: Drexel Medicine® Physician Refresher/Reentry Course reflects the University's extensive experience in medical training of non-traditional students and an equally relevant background in innovative instructional technology. A multi-disciplinary team of clinicians and administrators were appointed and charged with creation of the program with specific timelines for implementation. Two program modules were created that may be taken in sequence or independently: 1) structured on-site preceptorship (6 week rotations in pediatrics, internal medicine, urology, surgery, and ob-gyn), 2) on-line Medical Update Curriculum and Assessment using a distance-learning didactic curriculum with a pre- and post-test assessment format. During the preceptorship, participants build a portfolio of accomplishments, documenting knowledge acquired, skills learned, and assessment results.

Results: From November 2006 to March 2009, 36 physicians successfully completed *or are currently enrolled* in the Drexel Medicine® Physician Refresher/Reentry Course: 25 trainees in the structured preceptorship and 11 trainees in the online didactic curriculum. Ages range from 26 to 64 years. Ten are women and 26 are men. Trainees were away from clinical medicine from 0 to 17 years for various reasons: licenses revoked, retired, left the United States, medical disability, employed in non-clinical settings, international medical graduates pursuing a US residency program and family obligations. Since completion of the program, trainees succeeded in updating their clinical skills, obtaining employment in a hospital setting or in private practice (including a clinic on an Indian reservation and one in a small rural community), obtaining admission into a residency program, reinstating their medical license and obtaining a teaching position at a Medical School. Twenty two were self referrals, many listing Google search as their source. Others were referred by state or national agencies such as the National Board of Medical Examiners, locum tenens recruitment firms, the New York Department of Health, and State Medical Boards.

Conclusion: From November 2006 until now, 28 physicians completed the Drexel Medicine® Physician Refresher Course and 24 successfully achieved their goals within two weeks to eight months of completing the program. Four have not been admitted to a residency program thus far. Eight are currently enrolled.