

Medical school hosts national M.D./M.B.A. conference

Representatives of universities and institutions from around the country converged on the Wright State campus this spring for a high-profile national event.

The Seventh Annual M.D./M.B.A. Conference, whose theme was “Physician Leadership in the 21st Century,” took place April 17-19 and brought together more than 50 students, professors, and program directors for a weekend of presentations, social activities, and collaboration.

James Ebert, M.D., M.B.A., M.P.H., FAAP, associate professor of community health and pediatrics and the Oscar Boonshoft Chair and director of the school’s Center for Global Health Systems, Management, and Policy, opened and moderated the conference. Berkwood Farmer, Ph.D., dean of the Raj Soin College of Business, and

Howard Part, M.D., medical school dean, each offered brief words of welcome to the participants.

During the conference, Anthony Nguyen, M.D., M.B.A., senior vice president and medical director of the health benefits company WellPoint Inc., announced the creation of a new Physician Executive Fellowship Program. The year-long program, slated to begin in fall 2009, will initially accommodate two fellows who “have a true passion for moving into a physician-executive role and truly driving organizational strategy.”

The conference also included a judged poster session with several awards. More than a dozen medical students, post-graduate students, and faculty members presented their work on health systems, health economics, health enterprise, and health policy.

On the final day of the conference, Windsor Sherrill, Ph.D., and pre-medical student Jason Crumpler, both of Clemson University, presented the results of a 10-year study of M.D./M.B.A. programs and their graduates. Their research “shows that on 10-year follow-up, 100 percent of M.D./M.B.A. graduates are still very happy about their choice of the dual degree.”**VS**



Public health summit explores healthy lifestyles

The small choices we make every day can have a tremendous impact on our health. Genetics, environment, and access to medical care all contribute to overall health, but lifestyle and behavior play a far more important role. Every choice we make, from whether to eat an apple or a donut, to whether to take the elevator or the stairs, can make a difference.

This spring, a special Summit on Public Health explored ways that healthy lifestyles can promote individual and community health in the Miami Valley. The daylong event featured presentations and workshops on topics such as children’s health, nutrition, physical activity, health disparities and cultural issues, and the importance of addressing chronic disease as a public health issue at the community level.

Attendees learned how to increase longevity through lifestyle choices, and why it is essential and effective to create healthy lifestyle initiatives as a matter of public policy, from keynote speaker Steven Aldana, Ph.D.

Aldana has published more than 60 articles and seven books on ways lifestyle habits can help to prevent, mitigate, or reverse chronic conditions such as heart disease, cancer, and diabetes. He has also regularly served as a consultant to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health.

The summit was co-sponsored by the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine’s Center for Global Health Systems, Management, and Policy; Public Health—Dayton & Montgomery County; Sinclair Community College; and the Hittner Community Health Event.**VS**

