

Proposal to Establish a Libraries in Medical Education Special Interest Group Within the Western Group on Education Affairs (WGEA)

Submitted by: Janis Brown, Jeanne Le Ber, Sarah Morley, Rikke Ogawa and Lisa Traditi

Please consider this proposal to establish a Libraries in Medical Education Special Interest Group (LiME) (SIG) within the Western Group on Education Affairs (WGEA), a section of the Group on Educational Affairs (GEA) of the American Association of Medical Colleges.

Health science libraries and librarians play key roles in medical education. Consider that librarians regularly:

- provide high-quality instruction, reference and research assistance to physicians, researchers, medical educators, students and healthcare consumers.
- collaborate with medical educators to provide curriculum-integrated information skills instruction and resources to students.
- communicate with an international network of information professionals to keep abreast of cutting-edge information trends and communicate those relating to medicine to medical educators.
- design information skills curriculum, courses and workshops for in-person and distance education that promote the interests and needs of those in the medical community.
- purchase and maintain resources to be used in educational and research pursuits.
- teach and design resources for the information searching skills required for individual life-long learning.
- leverage their understanding of competency requirements to assist medical educators in addressing and achieving education outcomes.
- determine policies and procedures within our libraries that foster an environment conducive to educational endeavors.

A Libraries in Medical Education SIG would benefit both librarians and other WGEA members. Such a SIG would:

- promote communication and collaboration between librarians and WGEA members on research and curricular initiatives.
- allow librarians to enhance their knowledge and skills by keeping current on issues, trends, and needs of interest to the medical community.
- recognize librarians as a valued component of the medical education team.
- increase the professional knowledge and skills of WGEA members through programming developed and delivered at annual meetings by librarians.

Existing Models

Librarians have successfully implemented special interest groups within other professional organizations. For example, a Libraries in Medical Education SIG was instituted within the Central, Northeast and Southern Groups on Education Affairs (CGEA, NGEA, SGEA). These groups actively participate in regional GEA meetings through poster presentations and interactive sessions.

Additionally, the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) has a Libraries/Educational Resources Section in which nearly 80 academic and special librarians participate by: developing and delivering C.E. programs for librarians and pharmacy educators; providing input into the development of standards and guidelines for educational outcomes in Schools of Pharmacy as it pertains to information literacy; maintaining recommended resources list used for development of library collections, and more.

Membership

Any member of the WGEA who self-identified as being interested in Libraries in Medical Education would be a member of the SIG. All SIG members would be voting members. Members would initially be recruited through health sciences libraries email listservs, presentations at the annual meetings of the regional chapters of the Medical Library Association, discussions with colleagues and library directors, and distribution of information through WGEA Medical School members.

Operational Guidelines

Nomination and election process

Members of the SIG would elect a Steering Committee to conduct the business of the SIG, to coordinate with sections of WGEA, other WGEA SIGS and the WGEA Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee of the Libraries in Medical Education SIG shall be comprised of the SIG Leader, SIG Secretary, SIG Past Leader, the SIG Leader-elect. All shall be considered full voting members of the Steering Committee of the SIG. The Leader will serve as the representative to the WGEA.

Duties of the Steering Committee

Leader Shall:

- set an agenda, preside at scheduled meetings of the SIG, and charge and oversee the activities of all committees
- appoint the membership of all standing committees at the Spring WGEA meeting of each year
- appoint a member to complete the term of a vacated office
- request, approve, and review any spending of funds allocated to the SIG by the WGEA
- serve as a liaison between LiME-SIG in WGEA and other regions
- serve as a liaison between LiME-SIG and the steering committee of the Computer Resources in Medical Education SIG (CRiME-SIG)
- upon completion of his/her term of office, assume the office of Past Leader

Leader-Elect Shall:

- assume the duties of the Leader in the event the office of Leader is vacated
- serve as leader of a program committee and as a member of the Nominations Committee
- upon completion of his/her term, assume the office of Leader

Secretary Shall:

- record, keep and distribute minutes of SIG business meetings to all SIG Leaders and to any WGEA sections or committees according to the WGEA SIG bylaw

Past Leader Shall:

- provide continuity to the leadership of the SIG and serve as an advisor to the Leader

- serve as Leader of the Nominations Committee

Meeting of the SIG and Steering Committee

The Steering Committee and SIG shall meet annually in conjunction with the annual spring regional meetings of the WGEA. The Steering Committee shall be charged with carrying out the business of the SIG between the annual business meetings of the SIG.