

MEDICAL SCHOOL FACULTY COUNCIL

Speaker's Meeting
Tuesday, January 13, 2009
5:00 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.

BCRI Room 139 (Baxter Conf Rm @ Batchelor Children's Research Institute)

Members Present:	Others Present:
Norman Altman, V.M.D. Deshratn Asthana, Ph.D. Panagiota Caralis, M.D. Coralie Carraway, Ph.D. Mary Ann Fletcher, Ph.D. Marta Galarza, M.D. Diana Lopez, PhD. Tomas Salerno, M.D. Carl Schulman, M.D. Ivonne Schulman, M.D. Sean Scully, M.D.	William Awad, M.D. Richard Lee, M.D. Jennifer McCafferty-Cepero, Ph.D. Richard Weisman, M.D.

The meeting was called to order at 5:06 p.m. by the Speaker, Dr. Norman Altman.

A motion was made to approve minutes of the Speaker's Meeting of November 11, 2008. The motion was unanimously approved.

1. The Admissions Process at the UMMSM – Dr. Richard Weisman

The University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine enrolls approximately 198 students in each first year class; 150 at the Miami Campus and 48 students at our satellite campus in Boca Raton, Florida, on the campus of Florida Atlantic. A percentage of these students are admitted from our 7-year Honors Program in Medicine and from our Medical Scholars Program.

All applicants must be US citizens or permanent residents of the United States with an alien registration receipt (green) card in their possession at the time they complete the AMCAS application. Applicants who apply as permanent residents will be required to submit a photocopy of their alien registration receipt card.

Since the School of Medicine is subsidized for each Florida resident enrolled, Florida residents are given preference in all admissions decisions. However, the Miller School of Medicine has made a significant commitment to enroll more students from outside the state of Florida. This departure from previous policy reflects the growing national prominence of the School of Medicine and the national and international reputation of our clinical facilities and specialty centers, and our outstanding research programs.

Up to 50 non-Florida residents may be enrolled in each first year class. As a consequence, residents of states other than Florida are encouraged to apply, but only if they have truly superior academic records (>3.6 cumulative GPA) and exceptional (30+) MCAT scores, and have unique qualifications that the Committee on Admissions would find highly desirable.

It has been a long-standing policy of the School of Medicine to admit students with diverse backgrounds. Therefore, qualified non-traditional students, women, socio-economically disadvantaged students, and minorities underrepresented in medicine, are especially encouraged to apply.

Applicants must begin the application process by completing an AMCAS application on line and designating the University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine as the institution to which the application is to be forwarded. Applicants must take the MCAT exam no later than the fall preceding the year in which they hope to enroll in

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the School of Medicine. Scores from tests taken earlier will be considered only if they are no more than three years old at the time of application. All US citizens and permanent residents of the US will be invited to complete a Supplemental (Secondary) Application. The Committee on Admissions requires either a letter of evaluation from the premedical advisory committee at your school (greatly preferred), or three letters of recommendation from faculty members who can provide an evaluation both of your academic ability and of your personal qualifications for a career in medicine. In addition to the letters described above, applicants may submit a maximum of two more letters to support their application. These letters may not be substituted for the required letters. Letters that can add substantially to the overall picture of you as a candidate for medical school are most desirable. Letters from relatives and friends of the family, roommates or teaching assistants, or elected officials are strongly discouraged unless they can provide truly unique information about you that is not available from other sources.

Each completed application is scored independently by three members of the Admissions Committee. Factors scored at this point include science GPAs, MCAT scores, diversity of life experiences and accomplishments, the meaningfulness of patient contact experiences, and the quality of letters of recommendation. Screening scores are added and used to place the applicant on a ranked list of applicants to be invited for an interview. Applicants with the highest scores are invited first. This process continues until all available interview slots have been filled.

An evaluation behavioral interview conducted on the medical campus by a member of the Admissions Committee is an integral part of our selection process. Interviews are conducted only at the request of the Office of Admissions and are generally held on selected Mondays and Fridays between the middle of September and the end of April. Because it is important for prospective students to see Miami and our facilities and to meet some of our students and faculty, regional interviews are not held.

The Committee gives careful consideration to many factors when evaluating candidates for admission. Some of these factors are:

- Academic and mental preparedness to study medicine
- Breadth of life experiences
- Demonstrated interest in and experiences in direct patient care
- Interpersonal skill level
- Source and degree of motivation
- Maturity

The University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine uses an interval-based (rolling) admissions process. This means that the Committee meets at regular intervals between October and May and at each meeting candidates may be accepted, placed on the alternate list, or rejected. Applicants are notified of the outcome initially by email, followed by an official hard-copy letter. Inasmuch as the Admissions Committee is the duly appointed body representing the collective expertise of the faculty of the Miller School of Medicine, all Committee decisions are final.

2. New Business

Council members expressed several topics and/or concerns to be discussed at the next Dean's Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:16 pm.