



Founders Week

Educators of the Year



RENAISSANCE CURRICULUM TEAM

University of Maryland School of Medicine

In June 2018, the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) embarked on its first major curriculum revision in 25 years. After speaking with education colleagues at 20 institutions and studying curricula and best practices across the country, the Renaissance Curriculum Team recognized the importance of identifying the environment and values that contribute to making UMSOM excellent in biomedical education, basic and clinical research, and quality patient care and service.

The new curriculum

incorporates the information learned from other institutions with UMSOM's strengths and values according to its faculty and students. The goal of this major revision is to train the Renaissance Physician: lifelong learners who are clinically excellent and possess humanism, professionalism, scholarship, leadership, critical thinking, and attention to social justice and diversity.

The team of 10, working with more than 100 core educators in UMSOM, spent countless hours brainstorming and implementing new methodologies and incorporating adult learning theory into the curriculum. Then the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted clinical care and medical education. The team rose to the challenge of quickly and thoughtfully implementing changes to meet the needs of students, balancing education with the responsibility to protect health and safety. The members of the team, many of whom are also front-line providers, developed a new COVID-19 course that encompasses the epidemiology and public health response, the pathophysiology, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of the disease.

The Renaissance Curriculum was launched for first-year students in August 2020.

The team members are: Philip Dittmar, MD; Olga Ioffe, MD; Constance Lacap, DO; Joseph Martinez, MD; Donna Parker, MD, FACP; Devang Patel, MD; Sandra Quezada, MD, MS; Norman Retener, MD; Nirav Shah, MD; and Kerri Thom, MD, MS.

(In photo, from left: Norman Retener, Olga Ioffe, Devang Patel, Philip Dittmar, Donna Parker, Constance Lacap, Nirav Shah, Joseph Martinez, Sandra Quezada. Not pictured: Kerri Thom.)

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