

# Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine

## FREE\* Newsletter

\*(Faculty Resources for Educational Excellence)

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#### Quote of the Month

*"The education of the doctor which goes on after he has his degree is, after all, the most important part of his education" (JS Billings, 1894).*

*"A central tenet of contemporary educational theory is that adult learning is most effective when it is self-directed and based on real problems experienced in the workplace" (R Clarke, 2006).*

## Educating for Quality: The (Not So) New Mandate

A prominent leader in health system reform was quoted a few years ago along these lines (and I paraphrase here):

*"As a physician, I have two primary jobs when I come to work each day. One of them is to provide the best possible care to my patients. The other is to improve the health care system in whatever ways that I can."*

I would hope that nearly all physicians would concur and, in fact, perhaps say "yes, I've always done that....so what's the big deal about it now?" Well, at least three things have taken place in the past 15-20 years that have provided further impetus for this topic's current prominence:

**The 1999 IOM Report on Patient Safety** (To Err is Human: Building A Safer Health System) highlighted many problems associated with patient safety, quality of care and medical errors across the U.S. This report revealed serious deficits in our health care system related to safety concerns, and served as a catalyst for organized medicine to re-examine this issue in a sweeping manner.

**The ACGME** (the national accrediting body for residency education) has revised its institutional standards to require major emphasis on training all physicians (faculty, residents) on basic precepts of patient safety and care quality.

**The Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Process** across many medical and surgical specialties has evolved to include formal requirements for quality and safety projects or similar efforts, for physicians who wish to re-certify. This has not been without controversy in some disciplines, but is likely to continue.

So, how is this need being addressed here? Most medical schools, including VTCSOM, are now developing curricular materials around basic concepts of quality and safety so that graduating medical students have a foundational knowledge about it. Residency and fellowship training programs are also paying increased attention to these topics, with residents and faculty learning together as they work on focused quality projects and on improving overall patient care.

There are lots of resources "out there" to assist you in learning more about patient safety and care quality issues. One very widely used resource is the Institute for Healthcare Improvement: <http://www.ihl.org/Pages/default.aspx>.

Our Office is working collaboratively with several other units at VTCSOM and Carilion Clinic on planning additional training for health professions learners on this vital topic. Please be watching for further details. If our staff can help your program with organizing learning sessions on this topic, please let us know!

*David Musick, PhD*

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**Mark your calendars!!** TEACH's 1<sup>st</sup> annual Education Day will be held on **October 28, 2015**. The focus of the day will be on **Feedback**. A student/trainee session will be held from 8:00-9:00 am, an all-faculty session will be held from 12:00-1:00 pm, and a (by invitation) session will be held for educational leaders from 1:00-2:00 pm. Looking forward to learning with you all there!