In the July issue of OCPD FREE, we shared Carilion Clinic’s Continuing Medical Education (CME) Office’s goal of improving the health of the communities we serve by educating physicians and other health professionals in new areas of medical knowledge and clinical skills. We strive to continue to meet this goal with innovative approaches that help us meet the various and evolving needs of those we serve.

In addition to the CME requirements necessary for maintaining their medical license, physicians are also required to participate in a four-part board-specific Maintenance of Certification (MOC) process. MOC challenges physicians to focus on the continuous development of their specialty skills. However, the process can add considerable demands to already very busy roles. In response to this, the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) and the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) have collaborated to offer 5 of the 24 board specialties MOC Points in Medical Knowledge (Part II) for CME credited activities to minimize the burden.

Our CME Office, as a state accredited provider for CME for physicians, has joined other providers by offering MOC Points for CME activities. CME providers may choose to review and approve various *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™* activities for MOC Points (meeting board requirements), providing dual value, CME Credits and MOC points, for one event. The requirements for each specialty are unique, making the process tricky. Therefore, our CME Office works closely with physician champions and CME partners throughout departments participating in the new MOC model and provide support to develop and implement education that meets the requirements for both CME Credits and MOC Points.

**Why Board Certification for Physicians: What does it really mean?**

Patients consider various factors when choosing their healthcare providers, including: proximity, gender, and reviews from friends and family. An additional attribute that may influence the choice of a provider is board certification. As patients become savvier healthcare consumers, they may equate board certification with higher-quality care. What’s more, the desire to continue to serve patients well with the most up to date knowledge drives us to continue learning within this formal framework. We hope the addition of MOC Points to a growing number of CME activities helps to meet your MOC needs.

The following American Board of Medical Specialties currently allow for dual CME/MOC credit:

- American Board of Internal Medicine
- American Board of Pediatrics
- American Board of Anesthesiology
- American Board of Pathology
- American Board of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery

Please do not hesitate to contact us at CMEOffice@carilionclinic.org with questions or ways in which we can assist further.

--Linda Wells
The two photos below remind me of how far we’ve come as a group of faculty in eight short years. The photo on the left is one of our first faculty assemblies in February 2010. A small but mighty group of dedicated faculty gathered to hear updates on topics such as work towards our first accreditation, curriculum development, and the soon-to-be admission of our first class.

The photo on the right was taken at our most recent faculty assembly last February. The size of the meeting space alone indicates how much we’ve grown – from zero faculty when I first arrived in 2008 to a handful at our early assemblies to 790 now. We’ve grown and refined our faculty affairs in more ways than just numbers. Over the past eight years, we’ve developed a faculty promotions program for which 48 faculty members were recognized last February. We now have a faculty handbook and bylaws, an online information management system, and an annual review process, among others.

As most of your probably know, I will retire at the end of this year. To say you are important to our school is an understatement. Without you, we could not carry out our vision of providing our students with a superb educational experience solidly grounded in inquiry, research, and discovery. You have proven time and again that helping our students learn is a priority. Your investment in their training and your involvement in VTCSOM has made me proud beyond measure. It has been a privilege to work alongside each of you.

To some of the finest academicians, clinicians, teachers, and leaders I have had the honor to know, I wish you great successes in the future.

Cynda

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