The International Association of Medical Science Educators (IAMSE): A great resource for faculty development and much, much more!

VTCSOM recently hosted the annual meeting of IAMSE held over four days at the Hotel Roanoke. Over 650 health sciences educators from 28 different countries learned about theoretical and practical educational ideas and approaches from each other in faculty development workshops, plenary and focus sessions, brief oral presentations, and posters. Some of you may have participated and know first-hand how exciting this association has become.

The mission of IAMSE is to advance health professions education through teacher development and to ensure that the teaching and learning of medical science continues to be firmly grounded in foundational sciences and best practices of teaching.

IAMSE has over 1500 members from 50 countries and provides numerous opportunities for faculty development in medical and health sciences education. Check out the website at www.iamse.org for links to upcoming events and archived educational materials. You might find them useful in developing your educational portfolio and becoming a more effective teacher. IAMSE also directly stays connected to the membership with a Newsletter (IAMSE Connects) containing important announcements of members’ accomplishments throughout their careers. Additionally, the Public Affairs emails list important news articles and links to health science educational events and stories throughout the year.

Three time a year, IAMSE presents a web seminar series that focus on current topics in health sciences education. VTCSOM subscribes to these series and any faculty member at VTCSOM can watch them with their colleagues (on our conference room in 2 Riverside Circle), in their individual offices in real-time (on Thursdays at noon), or even after they have been delivered by logging into an archived repository. To gain access to these seminars please contact Ms. Adelaida Stambol at astambol@vt.edu.

IAMSE publishes its own journal, Medical Science Educator, an excellent target to publish your scholarly work in medical education. The journal published 268 articles in 2018. It is indexed in SCOPUS, and offers a variety of types of articles for consideration. IAMSE also sponsors a fellowship program to help faculty advance their educational careers. They also offer travel awards for students and junior faculty for presentations at the annual meeting. Research grant funding for both faculty and student projects are available, with both the travel awards and research grant funding increasing each year.

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Become a member of IAMSE. Get involved by volunteering to be on the committees. Join us at the school to watch the web seminar series. The programs sponsored by IAMSE can complement our existing TEACH programs to help you achieve your educational goals and make you a better educator.

Rick Vai, PhD
Senior Dean for Academic Affairs
President of IAMSE