Dear Larner Community,

I am delighted to announce that the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) has awarded full accreditation of the UVM Larner College of Medicine for another eight-year term, through 2029.

As many of you know, the reaccreditation process involves 18 months of self-study followed by a site visit. Our work in this process was complicated by the unique circumstances and limitations presented by the pandemic and the additional challenge of a cyberattack on the UVM Medical Center. Despite those challenges, and thanks to the amazing ingenuity, resilience and energy of the more than 300 people from across our community – faculty, staff and students both in Vermont and Connecticut – our self-study was completed in full and on time.

Our subsequent virtual site visit by the LCME in April provided additional information necessary for determination of reaccreditation. I want to thank our LCME Steering Committee and Subcommittees, the Independent Student Analysis Task Force, and the COMTS and Medical Communications staff who went the extra mile, as they did throughout the self-study. Three individuals were critical to every step in this process, and our entire community owes great thanks to Associate Dean for Public Health and Health Policy Jan Carney, Director of Facilities Administration and Projects Eric Gagnon, and Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education Christa Zehle. This truly took a village.

The accreditation process is designed to identify areas for improvement and thereby enhance the quality of medical education. Of the 93 elements examined by the LCME, 84 were found to be fully satisfactory. In the coming weeks we will provide more detail on our plans to address areas needing additional attention, as we prepare for an interim report to the LCME in December 2022. Furthermore, through our Continuous Quality Improvement Committee, we will continue to systematically address all standards and elements in an ongoing fashion in preparation for our next LCME Site Visit in 2029.

Reaccreditation is ultimately focused on our students and optimizing their educational experience. Our medical students were full participants in the reaccreditation effort, as demonstrated by their exceptionally high participation in the Graduation Questionnaire and Independent Student Analysis Surveys. Their engagement, and that of our entire community, surely impressed our site-visitors and played an important part in our receiving full accreditation.
I look forward to sharing more information about our reaccreditation, and the work we must do, at a Town Hall next month, on Wednesday, November 17, 2021 (details to follow). We will also plan a celebration of this important event in the life of our College.

My thanks again to everyone who contributed to the LCME reaccreditation process, and to each member of the Larner Community for all you do.

Sincerely,

Rick

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