

New osteopathic medical school receives pre-accreditation

College planned for ATSU Mesa Campus moves one step closer

At the quarterly meeting of the ATSU Board of Trustees, Doug Wood, D.O., Ph.D., dean of ATSU's proposed osteopathic medical school, announced that pre-accreditation status was awarded by the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) to the proposed school in December 2005. Pre-accreditation status is awarded after the commission confirms the feasibility study and conformity to portions of the standards required for full accreditation.



Dr. Richard 'Buz' Cooper of the University of Pennsylvania addresses ATSU Board members during his presentation about healthcare workforce policy. Dr. Cooper has projected a shortage of 200,000 physicians by the year 2020.

Dean Wood indicated that ATSU is one step closer to realizing its goal.

"By implementing an innovative educational model and precise evaluation techniques, the medical school of the future is now," Dean Wood said.

The proposed school was initiated in response to a request from the National Association of Community Health Centers. Studies predict an estimated shortfall of up to 200,000 physicians by 2020, a shortage that will exacerbate efforts of the Health Center safety-net to improve the health status of underserved communities. Community Health Centers anticipate a need to hire an additional 14,000 physicians by 2020 and are partnering with ATSU to identify, educate, and train high quality, community-minded physicians. In addition to COCA's approval, the Arizona Commission for Post-Secondary Education issued its own approval for provisional accreditation on February 23. The ATSU Board also reconfirmed its support for the program at the Board meeting.

"ATSU is in a great position to build a medical school to address the many needs of students, patients, and the community simply not being addressed by existing models of education and care," said Craig Phelps, D.O., provost, ATSU-Mesa. "It will be an exciting, purposeful, and relevant project, and most importantly, it will benefit students and patients across the country."

The author of the projected physician shortage study was Richard "Buz" Cooper, M.D., professor of medicine, division of general internal medicine, University of Pennsylvania Health System. Dr. Cooper shared his insights concerning solutions to the problem of physician shortages with the ATSU Board. He indicated that ATSU's Mesa Campus was ahead of the curve in anticipating the nation's future health needs and finding solutions.

"It won't be long before ATSU-Mesa will be synonymous with the future of medical education," Dr. Cooper said.

Dr. John Morley headlines annual lecture on aging

The second annual ATSU Lecture on Aging will be held at 2 p.m., April 7, at the ATSU Campus in Kirksville, Mo., and will be simultaneously broadcast at the ATSU campus in Mesa, Arizona, and made available online as well. Dr. John E. Morley, M.B., B.Ch., will present the lecture on health promotion and healthy aging.

Dr. Morley is Dammert Professor of Gerontology at Saint Louis University Medical School and director of the Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center at the St. Louis V.A. Medical Center. Dr. Morley was educated at the University of Witwatersrand in his native South Africa. He received

postgraduate training at UCLA and is board certified in endocrinology and geriatrics.

Dr. Morley is the author of numerous papers and 14 texts, including "Geriatric Nutrition," Second Edition (1995), "Memory Function and Aging Related Disorders" (1992), "Medical Care in the Nursing Home," Second Edition (1996), "Frailty in Older Individuals" (1993), and "As We Age" (1996). In 1990, he was included among the 100 Most-Cited Scientists in the World from 1981-1988. Dr. Morley's current research topics include memory function, nutrition, and endocrinology of the elderly.

The lecture will be open to ATSU faculty, staff, students and alumni, as well as other interested community professionals. It is anticipated that CME credit will be available.

The lecture is sponsored by the ATSU Committee on Aging. For more information, please call 660.626.2182 or rлуkefahr@atsu.edu.



MORLEY

ATSU-Kirksville hosts Aging in Place summit

Three designated sites collaborate on progress, challenges

Representatives from four Missouri "Aging in Place" sites recently met in Kirksville at ATSU's Senior Living Campus to discuss progress in the development of the program, as well as challenges they currently are facing.

In March 2002, the Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services designated sites in Springfield, Cape Girardeau, Columbia, and Kirksville as pilot locations of "Aging in Place" models for the state of Missouri. The Aging in Place model of care for the elderly offers care coordination and healthcare services to older adults so they will not have to move from one level of care delivery to another as their healthcare needs increase.

Discussion among the more than 20 representatives who attended the meeting included: strategies to develop health and wellness resource programs at senior wellness and community centers; federal and state health programs, including Medicare, prescription drug programs, and tax credit availability; and coordinated community services, including services and collaboration with partnered health clinics and health science institutions.

"What makes Kirksville's Aging in Place model work is the engagement and contributions of the community," said Elsie Gaber, Ph.D., associate vice president for university relations at ATSU. "Whether it is RSVP volunteers with the leadership of Pat Selby, or Senior Circle program with the enthusiasm of Laura Gruber, or Dr. Rene McGovern and Janet Head with the integration of our students into the community, partnerships are a key to the successful programs in our community, and the Aging in Place program is one more example of how people working together make the difference."



Representatives from Missouri's Health and Senior Services (H&SS) department and model "Aging in Place" sites met to discuss successes and challenges since the project's designation in 2002. Left to right: Sue Heisler, H&SS; Debra Cheshier, H&SS; and Bob Jefferson, Elfendale in Springfield.



The "Aging in Place" site representatives took a break from their meetings to have lunch with residents of St. Andrews Apartments, an independent living facility at ATSU that is part of the Senior Living Campus. Pictured is Marilyn Rantz, Tiger Place in Columbia and Nick S, resident of St. Andrews apartments.