



Dean Fogarty at the Class of 2019 White Coat Ceremony in August

A young school leads the way

In its infancy, the College of Medicine spent much time and energy explaining its plans to the accrediting body of U.S. and Canadian medical schools. Back then, the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) believed this country had no pressing need for new medical schools.

A core group of the medical school's founders spent many weekends preparing to help the LCME understand why a community-based approach would better address the paucity of physicians in Florida's small towns. In many ways, those meetings helped shape the course of medical education.

In 2006, one year after the College of Medicine gained full accreditation, the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) reversed course and called for an increase in medical school enrollment, citing much of the same research Florida State had been describing.

By fall 2008, 10 institutions had announced their intent to develop new medical schools.

A recent, subtler development makes many of the college's founders smile as well. In July, FSU College of Medicine Dean John P. Fogarty quietly began a term as chair of the LCME.

You've come a long way, baby?

"You better believe it," said Myra Hurt, who helped envision how the college would educate new physicians and served as interim dean.

"This is sweet irony. And it's great for new and emerging medical schools to have the LCME chaired by the dean of a young medical school."

In addition, Alma Littles, senior associate dean for medical education and academic affairs, recently began her term as chair of the Academic Physicians Section (APS) of the American Medical Association (AMA). She presided over a transition for the APS from its previous name — the Section on Medical Schools.

There are more than 20,000 academic physicians nationwide, but the Section on Medical Schools had fewer than 600 members.

"We believe this change will help the AMA-APS expand its engagement with academic physicians nationwide and help address the key challenge we all face — how best to educate the next generation of physicians," Littles said.

Recognizing that new medical schools have different accreditation challenges, the AAMC and AMA sought input from newer schools for LCME leadership.

That led to Fogarty, who became active with the LCME in 2011, three years after he became the College of Medicine's dean. He has chaired numerous accreditation site visits and now presides over the LCME's three annual meetings. His term expires in 2017.

"The rapid expansion in the number of medical schools after FSU was established has challenged the LCME with a major increase in site visits and work at our meetings," Fogarty said. "I am honored to be chosen to chair this organization and know that this role provides great visibility for the FSU College of Medicine."