

on main campus



Awaiting good news

People were actually upbeat when the reaccreditation team was here in April. To fully appreciate the significance of that, you need a little history.

In 2002, the College of Medicine was

the country's first new medical school in decades. The Liaison Committee on Medical Education, the nationally recognized accrediting authority for M.D. programs, was flummoxed by the college's nontraditional structure and approach. And nobody on the LCME team at that time had experienced going through the accreditation process with a brand-new medical school. In a move that took Florida State's breath away, the LCME turned down initial provisional accreditation. Three years later, full accreditation was granted.

This time, the LCME entered with a better grasp of the college's nontraditional approach. In addition, the college now has countless examples of outstanding outcomes to share.

Alma Littles, senior associate dean for medical education and academic affairs, led an 18-month exercise to prepare for the site visit that included a rigorous self-study. During the visit, the six-person LCME

team's schedule was relentless. One day, they met with 46 faculty members and students. Another day, they split up and traveled to Pensacola and Daytona Beach, while two members stayed behind and visited the Tallahassee Regional Campus and Marianna to explore part of the school's regional campus system.

"Our visitors spent five days exhaustively asking questions about every facet of our program and came away with a great understanding of our model and how well it is working," Dean John Fogarty said.

The site team detailed its compliments and concerns in a confidential report to the full LCME, which is expected to make a determination about reaccreditation in October.

"While we won't hear anything from the LCME right away," Littles said, "we can celebrate a successful site visit and anticipate a bigger celebration in late October."