I am still in the throes of an unavoidable conflict that precludes my attendance at the Monday afternoon meetings.

There are several important CCEP issues that I’d like to pass along to the group though.

1. The overall plan for the academic year is for the CCEP to undertake a comprehensive view of the evaluation process, to see how we obtain data about our courses, faculty, and students, and how this might be improved. Tentatively, the education retreat in the spring will focus on this broad issue.

2. This week, the CCEP approved a proposal for resequencing the blocks in the Essential Core curriculum. I have enclosed 2 documents that detail the proposed changes, which were recommended by a panel of faculty, students, and outside reviewers from Stanford and UCLA after an extensive review process.

Happy to answer any questions, and once again, apologies for my absence.
EC Block Review & Restructuring
CCEP Meeting 10/20/04

1. Timing for Implementation

2005/2006
- F: Prologue
- W: CV Organs
- M: P & R Organs
- N: M&N
- S: BMB

2006/2007
- F: Prologue
- W: CV Organs
- M: P & R Organs
- N: M&N
- S: BMB

2. Big Picture Tasks
A. What from current Cancer block stays in Yr 1?
B. What from current Cancer block & other blocks can go into Yr 2?
C. Where does Cancer Yr1 material go?
D. Where in Yr2 does transplanted Yr1 material go?
E. New Cancer block renovation

3. Time-Line

A B C D E
F04 W05 Sp05 Su05 F05 W06 Sp06 Su06 F06

4. First Steps
A. CCEP approval of block restructuring
B. ECSC defines process and appoints working group(s)
C. Identify leader(s) of the process
D. Ensure open communication with current block and theme leaders
The October 13th retreat involved a productive and wide-ranging discussion among curriculum stakeholders, Steering Committee members, and outside reviewers with diverse perspectives.

The participants agreed that no curricular order will be perfect in all respects, but the core rationale for change is the enhancement of integration and the ongoing improvement of student learning. This improvement depends on the logical development and progression of material in the Essential Core.

In its first vote, the Steering Committee endorsed a change in the order of blocks. In its second and more specific vote, the committee endorsed switching the Cancer/MGM (The Molecular and Genetic Basis of Medicine) block with the Metabolism and Nutrition block. The benefits of the change include:

1. The improvement of transitions and flow of content for students (i.e., the organs focus is maintained since M & N would follow the Organs block),
2. The opportunity to rethink, reformulate, and rename the Cancer block (e.g., The Molecular and Genetic Basis of Medicine, MGM)
3. The requirement for change and improvement in all blocks, driven by the repositioning of Cancer/MGM and M & N.
4. The potential for enhanced longitudinal integration in disciplines like anatomy, and curriculum threads such as genetics

Important principles as we move forward:

1. Basic principles and key concepts should be revisited in a primer-reprise approach. All basic principles do not need to be introduced in the first curriculum block (Prologue).
2. Diseases should be used as a way to learn and illustrate basic principles, not the other way around (i.e., we don't want to create specialty survey courses)
3. Faculty and administrator well-being is essential, and the ECSC will work to identify support for those in the greatest areas of change

Next steps:

1. The chair of ECSC, Manny Pardo, and Helen Loeser will meet with key chairs and curriculum leaders to discuss the changes and gather further input
2. The summary of the retreat will be presented to both the EC Course Committee (ECCC) and the Committee on Curriculum and Educational Policy (CCEP)
3. The ECSC will convene a working group to provide further principles guiding the change, building on the previous work of the initial restructuring working group, but considering the implications on all blocks.
4. The ECSC may also consider formation of an ad hoc committee dedicated specifically to reconstituting the Cancer/MGM block.