University of Oklahoma College of Medicine’s
School of Community Medicine Summer Institute

COURSE SUMMARY

July 27 through August 1, 2008

The Summer Institute is an immersion in Community Medicine. The curriculum captures the *tacit knowledge* that the Tulsa Community has about its needs and its vision for a healthier future.

During the five days of the Summer Institute, faculty from across the health professions, medical students and physician assistant students will discover the meaning of Community Medicine. We will open our minds and hearts to the stories of people from the Tulsa community. Working as a learning community, we will begin to see how our individual and collective roles can bring a healthier future into being.

The curriculum for the Summer Institute may seem a bit strange. We will infrequently use techniques for transmitting existing explicit knowledge (lectures and reading assignments). Instead, after a brief morning lecture, we will travel into the community and conduct interviews with our healthcare stakeholders.

Returning to the Schusterman Center, we will engage in small group conversations to tease out the themes we hear from the community, merge our different experiences into an inclusive vision for a new health care, and imagine our role in bringing it into being. We will explore the personal meaning of our individual roles as health care professionals in facing the difficult ethical and moral challenges in healthcare.

Forming interest groups of faculty and students, we will shape solutions to problems that attract our attention and will learn-by-doing how we might co-create a healthier Oklahoma and provide more effective healthcare. At the end of each day, we will evaluate our experience and write a journal entry that reflects our integrating the experience into our professional development.

On Tuesday afternoon, we will experience medical care in action; medical students will shadow patients during their visit to the afternoon Bedlam Longitudinal clinic, learning the barriers patients face in accessing health care in Oklahoma. Students will then learn how teams of medical, physician assistant, nursing, pharmacy, and social work students and faculty use service-learning to provide care, learn from the experience, and improve its delivery. One group of students will shadow patients and students at the Bedlam Acute clinic on Tuesday evening and another on Thursday evening.
Friday of the Summer Institute will be held on the Tulsa University Campus where the problem solving groups will demonstrate their “prototype 0.8” solutions to health care problems. The groups will present their projects to the assembled Summer Institute faculty and students and to stakeholders from the Tulsa community. Receiving feedback on the projects will shape ongoing work in research, education, and patient care for the School of Community Medicine.