Institutional Faculty Development Course XVIII (IFDC) and Leadership Development Academy (LDA) Corner

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic added to the complexity of delivering face-to-face workshops for the Institutional Faculty Development Course XVIII and Leadership Development Academy.

The Office of Faculty Development transitioned all meetings, sessions and workshops as per institutional recommendations by avoiding social gatherings and performing e-learning activities. Participants for FDC and LDA were able to prepare their projects and share them with their peers via the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso learning management system, CANVAS. The learning management system provided participants with the opportunity to comment on their peers’ projects and contribute to the improvement of their proposal.

Online Institutional Faculty Development Program Set to Launch This Fall

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to the transformation of how we will conduct our faculty development program. To meet the needs of our full-time and community faculty in this trying time and for the foreseeable future, the OFD is in the process of redesigning its professional development opportunities and focusing on e-learning. Our online faculty development program will be delivered through asynchronous modules (e-learning) and synchronous sessions (teleconferencing) and will be open to general faculty.

Our virtual faculty development program will be launched in November 2020 and will be composed of four online courses: Teaching, Research, Clinical Skills and Simulation, and Leadership Development. We anticipate offering 70 to 80 hours of content. The majority (75%) of the IFDP offerings will be asynchronous. Faculty members can access interactive online content 24 hours a day using their eRaider credentials. Twenty-five percent of the content (representing eight contact hours) will be live (synchronous) but delivered using Cisco Webex rather than face-to-face. These live sessions will take the form of one or two grand rounds per week (November through June) each lasting one hour.

The innovative IFDP will allow faculty from all four schools to customize their professional development. The needs of junior faculty, as well as mid-career and senior faculty, will be addressed.

Faculty who are interested in enrolling and graduating from the comprehensive virtual Institutional Faculty Development Program 19, will have to obtain a total of 30 hours of credit from a combination of the Teaching, Research, Clinical Skills and Simulation, and Leadership Development courses, and complete four projects during the eight-month period (from November 2020 to end of June 2021).

The OFD is pleased to announce that our faculty’s e-learning needs will be part of the OFD’s e-Learning Unit (eLU). The eLU is composed of three professional staff members who are familiar with learning management systems and e-learning authoring tools. The eLU will collaborate with faculty across all schools and departments to create modern educational online content for their learners.
Faculty Development Professional Corner

Zuber D. Mulla, Ph.D., C.P.H., professor of obstetrics and gynecology, and assistant dean for faculty development, was featured in the American College of Epidemiology Online Member Newsletter. The article is titled, Reading a Book Can Change Your Life: How the Medical Detectives Influenced Dr. Zuber D. Mulla.

Sanja Kupesic Plavsic, M.D., Ph.D., and Dr. Mulla’s article, “The Essentials of a Faculty Development Program in the Setting of a New Medical School,” was accepted for publication in the Journal of Investigative Medicine (JIM) June 2020 issue. Dr. Kupesic Plavsic was the May 2020 podcast host and shared her views on “Faculty Development Roles During the COVID-19 Crisis.”

Richard McCallum, M.D., FACP, FRACP, (AUST), FACG, is editor-in-chief of the Journal of Investigative Medicine (JIM) and professor of internal medicine, and Dr. Sanja Kupesic Plavsic is professor of obstetrics and gynecology and associate academic dean for faculty development.