

PRESS RELEASE



Five Medical Schools Receive APGO/Ford Foundation Women's Health Care Competencies Awards

The Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics (APGO) Women's Healthcare Education Office (WHEO) selected five medical schools for the APGO/Ford Foundation Women's Health Care Competencies Awards. Over the next two years, the five schools will use APGO's unique set of women's health education tools to teach medical students sex and gender differences in relation to diagnosis, treatment, disease prevention, and health promotion. This will allow the schools to develop educational models for medical schools nationwide to use for advancing the field of women's health care through medical education. With the generous support from the Ford Foundation, the APGO WHEO will foster dynamic models of curricular development, implementation and assessment that have the potential to influence medical education beyond the grant-winning institutions and ultimately impact the health care of all women.

The award recipients are: Indiana University School of Medicine, Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, University of Minnesota Medical School, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine.

Grantees were selected from proposals submitted by 34 U.S. allopathic medical schools and one osteopathic medical school. Members of the APGO Multidisciplinary Women's Health Education Task Force selected the schools whose faculty and resources showed the most promise for diverse and successful integration of the APGO *Women's Health Care Competencies*. Developed over the past few years by an interdisciplinary team of experts, the APGO's *Women's Health Care Competencies* are a set of learning objectives designed as a Web-based tool to instruct and evaluate medical students' knowledge and skills for providing comprehensive women's health care.

Throughout the grant program, APGO will work with the schools to: 1) replace traditional "gender and culture neutral" medical education with curricula reflecting "gender mainstreaming;" 2) initiate and manage curricular change, using the paradigm of ongoing competency assessment; and 3) foster interdisciplinary, patient-centered medical education programs using models which are readily adaptable to other medical schools, and to the effective practice of comprehensive women's health care.

APGO represents academic obstetrician-gynecologists in the US and Canada, and promotes excellence in women's health care by providing optimal resources and support to educators who inspire, instruct, develop and empower women's health care providers of tomorrow.

APGO Women's Healthcare Education Office's mission is to strengthen undergraduate women's health education for all medical students, regardless of ultimate career choice, by: promoting and coordinating a comprehensive, integrated, multidisciplinary approach to undergraduate women's health care education; and serving as a central resource for information concerning undergraduate women's health education.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Roberta B. Rusch, MPH, Director, APGO Women's Healthcare Education Office, 2130 Priest Bridge Drive, Suite #7, Crofton, MD 21114; (410) 451-9560; Fax (410) 451-9568; rrusch@apgo.org; Web site: www.apgo.org