



College of Medicine

Tucson



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Biosketch

Karen Spear Ellinwood is the Director of Faculty Instructional Development, and Assistant Professor, in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, UA College of Medicine. She practiced law for 13 years before entering the education profession. She earned her JD from Brooklyn Law School (1986), following a bachelor's degree in Social Work (1982), and her PhD in education in 2010, and an Education Specialist (EdS) degree in bilingual education in 2003, from the University of Arizona College of Education. Dr. Spear Ellinwood completed a Fiction Fellowship at CUNY Writers' Institute (2011), and writes fiction and children's books in her spare time. She directs instructional development efforts for the College of Medicine, conducts education research and assists in developing curriculum for medical students.

Examples of Activities

As Director of Faculty Instructional Development, Dr. Spear-Ellinwood develops curriculum for and conducts the annual residents as educators orientation. She has created a website (FID.medicine.arizona.edu) containing original and culled resources for educators who teach medical students and residents in clinical and non-clinical settings. Original works include CME and a self-regulated course on formative feedback, web-based guides for teaching in clinical settings, an overview of developmental learning theory and resources for curriculum development and program evaluation. She mentors College of Medicine faculty in designing and conducting education studies as Director of the AMES/OMSE Education Scholars Program. In addition to running workshops and creating resources for teaching with technology, Dr. Spear Ellinwood has conducted numerous workshops and generated durable materials to support office staff, including residency program coordinators, in using a wide variety of office software and apps.

Teamwork

Dr. Spear Ellinwood has been a member, since 2011, of the Clinical Reasoning Course Team, co-directed by Paul St. John, PhD, Associate Professor, Neuroscience in the Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine, and Alice Min, MD, Associate Professor, Emergency Medicine, and assisted in and provides ongoing guidance for the development of the Medical Spanish Bilingual Distinction Track, a UME program. She also works closely with the Department of Emergency Medicine at both BUMC Tucson hospital campuses in teaching and evaluating residents to assist program directors in preparing residents for their role as educators and enhancing their performance as physicians.

Committee Service

Dr. Spear Ellinwood serves on the committee for the Medical Education Distinction Track and the IPEP Disabilities Committee. She recently served on the Longitudinal Curriculum Committee in the Curriculum Redesign effort, provides support for other educational and policy committees in the College of Medicine. She is a member of AZCAT, a chartered working group that contributes to the overall educational mission of the College of Medicine, and is a member of Women in Academic Medicine.

Research and Scholarly Interests

Currently assisting in the design and implementation of a multi-institutional study on the concept and practice of "pimping" in medical education, and collaborates with physicians and education professionals in designing and conducting a variety of education studies including educator/learner perspectives on distinction tracks in UME and GME, the delivery of bad news and medical problem-solving.