

## Ensuring Coverage of Specific Content

The **Southern Illinois University School of Medicine (SIU)** tapped CurrMIT's ability to report extensively on content delivery in a review of learning issues in patient cases. Terri Cameron, Director of Educational Resources at SIU, worked with faculty to document and review how well student-generated learning issues matched faculty-generated learning issues.

### The Challenge

A drawback of problem-based learning is the difficulty of documenting the content to which students are exposed, due to the fact that PBL is student-directed. Students in tutor groups are presented with patient cases and asked to identify the learning issues from each case. SIU needed to clarify what students were actually learning from these cases, as well as what content faculty intended to teach. Specifically, educators wanted to understand how well the patient cases motivated students to identify the same learning issues faculty had identified for the cases.

### The CurrMIT Solution

Since the study followed a curriculum inventory project, CurrMIT information on courses, cases, and topics (content) was already comprehensive. For each patient case, SIU used CurrMIT to document the learning issues that faculty expected students to identify and explore. Then, for each tutor group, tutors identified what learning issues actually arose from the students. Course Directors and tutors can now compare their intent with the learning issues students actually identified, and follow up as necessary.

### The Benefits

CurrMIT enabled educators to go beyond the documentation of teaching objectives to documenting how well specific content was covered in practice. By means of detailed reports, the school of medicine was able to confirm whether the students were identifying the learning issues faculty intended, and to adjust the curriculum as needed. In the future, CurrMIT's enhanced reporting features will permit even further streamlining of a project that, without CurrMIT, could be tedious and cumbersome.

For more information, contact Terri Cameron, Director of Educational Resources, Office of Education and Curriculum, SIU School of Medicine, P.O. Box 19622, Springfield, IL 62794-9622; 217-785-4969; tcameron@siumed.edu.