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**Terence R. Flotte, MD**  
Celia and Isaac Haidak Professor of Medical Education  
Dean, School of Medicine  
Provost and Executive Deputy Chancellor, UMMS

October 5, 2010

Dear Students,

The Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) accreditation process for the School of Medicine's educational program is now officially underway. My vision for our LCME 2012 accreditation is broad engagement across our educational community in a thoughtful self-review of our medical education program. This offers us the potential for transformative change, addressing areas of identified need, and celebrating our strengths and accomplishments as an organization. I call on you to join me in this important work.

LCME accreditation consists of four distinct steps: 1) assembly of the facts—compilation of a database regarding the institutional setting, medical curriculum, students, faculty and educational resources; 2) review and critique of this database and publication of a summary report by an independent student analysis committee (ISA) and a self-study task force; 3) compilation of an Executive Report based on findings from the ISA and self-study task force; and 4) a site visit by the LCME, scheduled for March 4-7, 2012.

The Independent Student Analysis is the centerpiece of student participation in the self-study phase of the accreditation process, and provides the opportunity for medical students to independently conduct their own data gathering and analysis of the School of Medicine's medical education program, student services, environment for learning, and the adequacy of educational resources. Through the ISA process, students will develop a comprehensive survey administered across all four years (MS1-4), with an analysis of survey data and a final summary report. The ISA report will be included in the database that is reviewed as part of our institutional self-study and also will be submitted as part of our accreditation materials for review by the LCME.

Under the leadership of Michele Pugnaire, MD, Senior Associate Dean for Educational Affairs, we have an outstanding project team supporting these efforts on my behalf. The team will keep you informed via email and please feel free to visit our web site at [umassmed.edu/LCME](http://umassmed.edu/LCME) to find out more about the UMMS 2012 LCME accreditation. If you have any questions about the accreditation process, please contact the project manager, Ashton Gunn at 508-856-5134 or [ashton.gunn@umassmed.edu](mailto:ashton.gunn@umassmed.edu).

I view the accreditation process as an important opportunity for in-depth dialogue among our diverse constituencies fostering ongoing innovation and change and enabling us to build on past and present successes in medical education.

With thanks and appreciation for your participation in this process,

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