What the Students value from their Ambulatory Care rotation experiences (and also what they don’t value):
Dr. Sarah Lorentz reviewed the students’ Preceptor & Site Evaluations from Spring B to Fall B 2009 (includes 5 blocks) for comments related to the topic. The Office of Experiential Education is pleased to report that the positive feedback far outweighed the comments related to experiences they did not value by a margin of about 4 to 1.

Opportunities for improvement include the following: More time, follow-up on progress and guidance from the preceptor; more orientation; better timing of activities/pharmacist schedules and training on use of computer systems; clearer assignments; clinic schedule of topics to review; efficiency in clinic and what their role should be in the clinics when a pharmacist is not present.

What the students value most include the following: Interaction with the patient such as work-ups, assessment, interviewing, counseling, problem-solving and documenting; working with the team by observing roles of everyone on the healthcare team (MD, RN, PA, etc.), going on rounds, communicating with the team, shadowing, working with other trainees from other fields, active participation and interdisciplinary patient care discussions; self-learning which involves investigating unfamiliar medications, reviewing treatment guidelines and independent thinking; and observing the preceptor as a good role-model which entails observing how the preceptor thinks, doing patient work-ups, making effective recommendations to physicians, interacting positively with the healthcare team and embracing all aspects of pharmacy – pharmacoeconomics, adherence, kinetics, etc. Among many other things, students also value a good orientation on the first day with up-front and clear expectations about the APPE goals & objectives. (Please see the Powerpoint for the full list.)

Ambulatory Care Panel Discussion:
Seven representatives from five sites were on the panel: Nahed Bahlawan, Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton; Rick Gordon, Kimberly Liang and Michele Chow, Naval Medical Center San Diego; Thanh Nguyen, VA Medical Center San Diego; Nathan Painter, UCSD Family Medicine; and Marie Scott, Kaiser Permanente. Each panelist described their respective program structures and clinical practices as they relate to precepting APPE students. The various topics covered included orientation, learning activities, student presentations, preceptor teaching methods, clinic descriptions, patient interview styles, documentation, use of protocols for medication/labs and physical assessment.

Continuing Education:
A Continuing Education course called “Precepting an Ambulatory Care Experience” is available via the Pharmacist’s Letter’s Preceptor Training and Resource Network, which can be accessed from the SSPPS website:  (http://www.pharmacistsletter.com/?referer=ucsandiego/ptrn

Intern Hours:
Dr. Colbert reported the latest information regarding intern hours for APPE students.