



## *Three questions for Jose Franco, MD*

### **Implementing the New Curriculum: The View from Academic Affairs**

***Transformational Times: What aspect of the new curriculum do you see as having the most potential for transforming education at MCW?***

Jose Franco, MD: I am excited by all three phases of the new curriculum, but in particular, Phase 1. I believe the best way to teach our students is through an integrated approach that utilizes the talents of both our basic scientists and our clinicians. At the present, our students do not always recognize the importance of basic science in their ability to provide care for their patients. By utilizing case-based discussions, the new curriculum will allow students to apply basic science concepts and principles in patient care. A single well-crafted case will also allow multiple disciplines to demonstrate how this integrated approach ultimately allows for better patient care. Delivering the Phase 1 curriculum in small groups will also allow for increased student participation, enhanced understanding, and greater retention of key concepts. The small groups will also foster the importance of teamwork as well as allow for easier tracking of competencies in a longitudinal fashion. The organ system unit approach will also allow students to build on principles discussed in previous units.

***Transformational Times: What do you need from the MCW community as the next steps evolve?***

Jose Franco, MD: What we need most from the MCW community is engagement. I am excited by the energy that faculty, staff, and students bring to the proposed new curriculum. Bring that energy and excitement every day! Change is always hard, but the new curriculum allows us to utilize best practices that will ultimately benefit our students. This means they will become better physicians and scientists and translates into better patient care.

Be open to new ideas. We should not be happy with the status quo or be afraid of innovation. We need the MCW community to provide feedback to us. I would ask them: what excites you, concerns you, and what do you recommend to the team that is helping to create this new curriculum? Remember, the faculty own the curriculum. This is your opportunity to play a role.

***Transformational Times: What keeps you up at night?***

Jose Franco, MD: Communication. It is essential that we reach every faculty and staff member involved in the education mission and let them know what we are proposing, the timeline, and how this will impact them and their departments. I personally feel that you can never over communicate. When someone does not have access to the specifics or someone who can answer their questions, it becomes more difficult to engage the entire MCW community. Simply put, we need to do a better job communicating.