

August 5, 2002

I am delighted to formally announce the availability of the ADFM Department Consultation project. As part of ADFM's service to its membership, departmental consultations are available to current chairs and deans. Consultations are tailored to the needs and concerns of the requesting department and institution, are provided by your choice among a cadre of trained senior chairs and other academic leaders, and provide a structured analysis and written recommendations. Over time, we anticipate that reviews will be entered into a confidential database of Family Medicine departments, which will be used to guide training of all chairs and improve the consultation process itself.

Chairs and deans interested in discussing a possible consultation are asked to contact me. As part of the process, department chairs will be asked to provide a comprehensive snapshot of the department, to assist in arranging meetings with a range of the institution's leaders, and to provide a follow-up evaluation of the consultation. Consultations will generally be 1½ days in length and cost \$1250/consultant, plus travel and lodging. In most cases, three consultants will be recommended.

Let me add that the ADFM project is not intended to interfere with individually arranged consultations, nor are ADFM consultants asked to restrict themselves to consultations arranged through ADFM. Rather, the ADFM Department Consultation project offers a more structured and integrated method of consultation, which is formally linked to the chair development activities of ADFM. We will be providing an update on the Project at the ADFM annual meeting, and anticipate periodically revising the Project, based on your feedback, so it is as useful to as many of us as possible.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Michener, MD
Clinical Professor and Chair