

# **Pharmacology and Toxicology Learning Objectives for Graduate Education**

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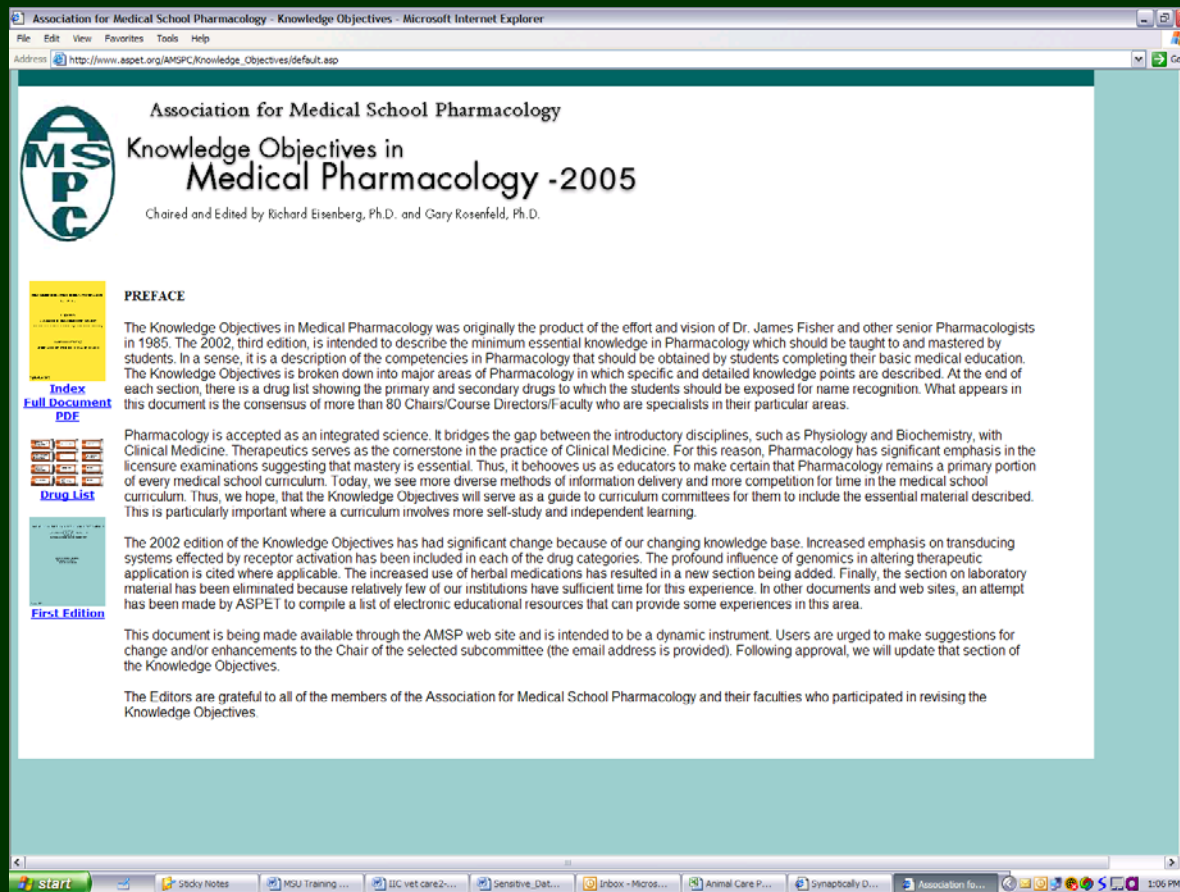
# **What is the Purpose of the Graduate Learning Objectives Project?**

**To create a framework of the knowledge and skills that graduate students are expected to possess at the end of graduate training**

# Where did this Concept Originate?

- **AMSPC “Knowledge Objectives” provided a foundation for medical pharmacology education**

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[http://www.aspet.org/AMSPC/Knowledge\\_Objects/default.asp](http://www.aspet.org/AMSPC/Knowledge_Objects/default.asp)

# Where did this Concept Originate?

- **AMSPC “Knowledge Objectives” provided a foundation for medical pharmacology education**
- **A similar basis is missing for graduate education**

# Why Graduate Learning Objectives?

- Students enter programs with different levels of knowledge from a variety of backgrounds
- Students learn at different rates through different mechanisms (reading, listening, observing...)
- Faculty tend to teach what they know best – narrow knowledge base

# **Why Graduate Learning Objectives?**

- **Provide students with skill sets that are necessary for their careers**
  - **Critical thinking**
  - **Integration of information**
  - **Laboratory management**
- **Clear objectives of a program may serve as a valuable recruiting tool**
- **Students need to know what is expected of them**

# Why Graduate Learning Objectives?

- **Systems-based medical education has obscured traditional mechanisms of providing a pharmacology knowledge base**
- **Integrated (common) graduate curricula and interdisciplinary research programs have obscured the way graduate programs define themselves**



# **The Plan of Action**

- **Organize a Task Force to develop a working outline of the Learning Objectives**
- **Partner with AMSPC and ASPET Education Committee**
- **Assess present curriculum**
- **Start the discussion**
  - Identify topics/areas to be included
  - Disseminate to departments for comment
- **Develop timetable for implementation**

# Breaking Down the Task

- What do we have now?
- What do we want to create?
  - Limited to academic core knowledge?
  - Laboratory skills?
  - Ethical issues?
  - Professional skills?
- Should this focus only on the Ph.D. student?

**The time to get started is now...**