Abstract

Microcomputers located in physicians' offices should help facilitate their continuing medical education (CME) activities in at least two ways. First, the computer should be able to provide prompt access to data needed to solve specific patient care problems. Second, the computer should have usefulness in implementing an ongoing, needs-based, individually-tailored CME program. Panel members will discuss theoretical and practical aspects of using computers for CME activities.

Dr. Felch reviews the historical trends in the CME arena that have led to the development of computer assistance. Dr. Heisterkamp outlines the factors needing consideration in automating physicians' offices. Dr. Storey presents a strategy for advising individual or small group practitioners about the use of computers in implementing an ongoing CME program. Dr. Swanson describes MED-CAPS, the American Board of Internal Medicine's method of using computers in an interactive mode. Dr. Weed relates his long experience in using the computer for linking patient care problems with the knowledge needed to solve them.