Be Prepared - Teaching Students what they need to know

An overview of the 11th Graz Conference on medical education

• Richard März

Overview

How can we be certain students are learning what we think is important and hopefully are teaching them? This question seems elementary but it goes to the heart of a problem, which is certainly not trivial as the 2007 installment of the Graz conference on medical education, held May 3-5 in Salzburg, proved once again.

Some of the suggestions were:

• Provide a well-structured curriculum (Grande, Mayo Clinic)
• Educate the educators (Fischer, Munich)
• Give your examination system a radical overhaul (Schuwirth, Maastricht)
• Have an accreditation body examine both process and outcome (Fulton, Vienna and Nake, Salzburg).

About 50 participants from 9 countries discussed these and other approaches in lectures, workshops, a poster party and a lot of unstructured time. The last morning focused on the methods of examination used at all Austrian schools of medicine and veterinary medicine. A list of questions similar to one that might be employed in an accreditation process was answered by the officials in charge at each institution and then discussed by a panel as well as by the audience.

The detailed program as well as the presentations given can be found at the conference web-site: http://www.mededu.meduniwien.ac.at/grako07/index.php.

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