

World Healthcare Students Symposium

Malta 7-12th November 2005

Statement of Beliefs:

Summary

The participants of the above symposium agreed on several principles:

1. Healthcare should be patient centred and multidisciplinary.
2. Healthcare professionals must have appropriate knowledge, good communication skills, be team players and have an empathic approach.
3. Healthcare education must be practical, multidisciplinary and state of the art.

The Symposium

The first joint symposium of world healthcare students was organised by IFMSA (International Federation of Medical Students' Associations), IPSF (International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation), EPSA (European Pharmaceutical Students' Association) and EMSA (European Medical Students' Association), and took place in Malta from the 7th to 12th November 2005. The symposium brought together 230 medical, pharmacy and nursing students from 42 countries in an international forum. The conference was intended to generate understanding and discussion between the professions, develop skills and awareness of concepts in multidisciplinary settings, and to create student advocates for a cooperative multidisciplinary approach to patient centred care to optimise health outcomes.

Explanation

Patient Care

The participants of the symposium agreed that good patient care takes into consideration the individual needs of the patient. There needs to be effective communication within the healthcare professions and with the patients themselves. This conference considers the STEEP principles described by the Institute of Medicine in "Crossing the Quality Chasm: A New Health System for the 21st Century" as an appropriate model for the delivery of excellent patient care. The STEEP principles are Safe, Timely, Efficient, Effective, Equitable, and Patient-centred.

Healthcare professionals

Healthcare professionals knowledge should at all times be relevant, current and evidence based. Healthcare professionals need good communication skills in order to be a team player in a multidisciplinary environment. A priority for all healthcare professionals is to be patient focused which requires an interactive and empathic approach.

Education

Healthcare education should be practical with maximum exposure to clinical settings from the beginning of the curricula. It should be interactive with a variety of teaching methods including problem based learning. Healthcare education should mirror the multidisciplinary working of healthcare teams which includes learning together in order to gain an understanding of other professions. Healthcare education should be state of the art. It should include the latest evidence-based practice and be delivered according to the latest developments in education.

In order to achieve all the above, a motivational learning environment must be created where members of the healthcare team are working together as equals from the very beginning of their careers.

References

<http://www.iom.edu/file.asp?id=27184> Institute of Medicine: "Crossing the Quality Chasm: A New Health System for the 21st Century"