Assessment of the student elective by poster presentation.

Elective at KCLSM

- Beginning of Phase 5
- 10 – 11 week period
- 8 weeks of attachments:
  - one or two locations
  - UK or abroad
  - developed or less developed country
  - clinical experience or research
ELECTIVES

TO ASSESS OR NOT TO ASSESS?
ELECTIVE ASSESSMENT IN UK MEDICAL SCHOOLS

• Medsin survey
ELECTIVE ASSESSMENT

• Very little in the literature

• Written case reports as assessment of the elective student clerkship: consistency of central grading and comparison with ratings of clinical performance
  • Molenaar et al (2004), Medical Teacher, Vol. 26, No 4, 301-304

Low correlation between the two assessments.
Probable explanation, case reports measure primarily cognitive aspects rather than clinical performance.
ELECTIVE ASSESSMENT

• How to assess? – a wide range of activities in varied locations e.g. Johns Hopkins vs. rural African placement.

• Who should assess? – elective supervisor or Medical School

• What are we assessing?
ELECTIVE ASSESSMENT

- Attendance only
- Formative or summative
- Pass/Fail or Graded
ELECTIVE ASSESSMENT AT KCLSM

- Elective Portfolio – beforehand
  - 1 SSC

- Elective Attendance Form

- Elective Poster – afterwards
  - 1 SSC

9 SSCs across five years

Progression issues
ELECTIVE PORTFOLIO

Marksheet

First marked by student’s Clinical Adviser

Second marked/moderated by panel of experienced moderators
ASSESSED ELECTIVE PORTFOLIO

ADVANTAGES

Students have to think about
- Personal As & Os
- Career exploration/reflection
- Global Health Issues
- Local demographic/Public Health issues
- Personal health and safety

Elective Travel Prizes awarded to best portfolios
- Including 30 x £500
- Marks reflect student’s research, planning, thought, effort
ELECTIVE ATTENDANCE FORM
Confirm attendance with dates (signed by elective supervisor)

Professionalism issues (attendance and reliability graded excellent → unsatisfactory, with comments. All students with unsatisfactory seen as appropriate)

Discussed with and countersigned by Clinical Adviser
ELECTIVE POSTER PRESENTATION

Two months after return

Produce and display AO Poster

Computer generated or handmade

Content: Personal As & Os

   Where, What

   Focus on e.g. Certain patients, diseases, activities

Discuss broader issues e.g. Public Health

Personal Conclusions

Photos etc including holidays
ELECTIVE POSTER PRESENTATION

- Posters in groups of 6-8 students
- Examiners (2 or 3) per group
- Examiners have 45 minutes to view posters
- Students in turn have 5 minutes to present poster & 5 minutes for questions
- 5 minutes for examiners to agree mark and give feedback
ELECTIVE POSTER PRESENTATION DAY

Morning and afternoon sessions

December 2010:
- 446 students in 56 groups
- 119 examiners, external examiner
- 4 senior examiners/moderators

All examiners asked to discuss any failures

Moderators/external examiner rotate around groups, view failures, prize nominations
ELECTIVE POSTER PRESENTATION

MARKSHEET

TYPICAL MARK DISTRIBUTION
ELECTIVE POSTER PRESENTATION
FOLLOWING DAY

Viewing by students

Moderation
ELECTIVE POSTER PRESENTATION
FOLLOWING DAY

GROUP MARKS
ELECTIVE POSTER PRESENTATION
ADVANTAGES

- Buzz, excitement, relatively enjoyable for students
- Enjoyable for examiners – no recruitment problems
- Skill development
- Educational value of elective seen by a wide audience
- Helpful to students planning their electives
- Prizes – 20. Prize posters displayed at a later event
- Poor performance/failure is an indicator of underlying problems
WHAT ARE WE MEASURING WITH THE ELECTIVE POSTER PRESENTATION

- Ability to produce a poster
- Presentation and questions give examiners opportunity to ascertain
  - How much the student actually did
  - Their understanding of the broader issues
  - The depth of their knowledge
PLANS/IMPROVEMENTS

Very few changes over past 10 years

- Satellite presentations
- Change mark sheet:
  - Poster assessment
  - Elective assessment
- Compare:
  - Attendance sheet grade(s)
  - Poster mark(s)
  - Examiners’ perception of educational value of elective