Character, Personality and Values in medical student selection

Mappin Hall, The Medical School, Sheffield, UK
Monday 14 October 2013

BACKGROUND

ASME is holding a series of workshops under the umbrella title of “Examining the Evidence”. The aim of these events is to provide a forum where senior medical school faculty, the regulatory bodies, medical education providers and policy makers can meet with international experts to discuss and debate current issues of critical importance in medical education. The format of these events is specifically designed to allow participants the maximum opportunity to discuss issues and share challenges. The first of these symposia, held in December 2010 focused on the use of National Licensing Examinations for students graduating from medical schools; the second (September 2011), focussed on selection at all points of medical education; the third (March 2013) focussed on transitions across the continuum of medical education. By popular demand, and to respond to growing interest in this topic, this event focuses again on selection, specifically on selection into medical school.

Medical school admissions are influenced by many factors, including academic achievement, cognitive testing, widening participation, and the changing face of secondary education. This event focuses on the role of applicants’ characters, personalities and values as criteria for admission. Although attractive in principle, tough questions arise. Are these non-cognitive factors valid in terms of student performance; are they measureable, and free from bias or manipulation? We seek to examine the evidence and engage in wide ranging discussion.

Nearly all staff and scholars involved in medical school admissions have recognised the importance of character, values and personality in this field. Recent attention has been focused on this with the explicit mission in the mandate of Health Education England to promote these factors in healthcare professions selection and this will be discussed in some detail.

ASME and HEE jointly sponsor this one day conference to be held in Sheffield, UK, to examine the evidence for character and values in medical and dental admissions and to discuss and debate mechanisms for implementing robust and relevant selection procedures.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

We extend a warm invitation to all staff interested in the topic of character and values in medical, dental and more widely in healthcare professions selection. This conference is likely to be of interest to admissions tutors and staff in medical and dental schools, and to colleagues in nursing, midwifery, physiotherapy, and other professional schools allied to medicine. We have left time in the programme for delegates’ papers (10 minutes) if delegates would like to present their experiences and insights. Please submit a 200 word abstract to p.chan@shef.ac.uk by 5pm Monday 30th September.

The provisional list of speakers includes:

- Dr Mohammadreza Hojat, Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia
- Professor Filip Lievens, University of Ghent, Belgium
- Professor Eamonn Ferguson, University of Nottingham
- Sir Keith Pearson, Chairman, Health Education England

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

We anticipate this day will inform discussions, clarify issues and identify areas for further work thus enabling us to develop policy, practice and the research agenda. Full details can be found on the ASME website: www.asme.org.uk