

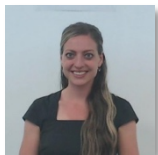
Medical Education Group Newsletter

Learning Theories: How Explaining the Process of Learning Allows us to Explore the Process of Teaching

November 2018



Notes from Meeting



Thank you to all who attended the first Medical Education Group meeting of the 2018-19 academic year! We have extended the invite to the wider Medical School and hope this will create opportunities to share ideas and collaborate between departments.

Dr Erin Fillmore spoke this month, posing the question: How can we understand how learning occurs, and thus provide the best teaching, if we are dealing with such a broad group of individual student learners? By combining multiple learning theories Dr Fillmore suggested that we can offer a more comprehensive way in which to structure, plan and deliver successful learning experiences for our students. She presented a 5-step model of learning that offers a framework to help explain what the student and the teacher are likely to go through in the learning process.

This was an innovative look at the responsibilities that BOTH the learner and the teacher have at each step. The steps include:

Step 1: Dissonance

Present when the learner's existing knowledge is challenged and found to be incomplete

Step 2: Refinement

Learner seeks out a number of possible explanations/solutions to the problem— through refining the new information gained

Step 3: Organization

Learner develops or restructures their ideas to account for the increased information they have acquired – through practice and organizing new information into schemata

Step 4: Feedback

Learner articulates (in some form) their newly acquired knowledge and tests it against what the "experts" know

Step 5: Consolidation

Learner looks back over the learning cycle and identifies what they have learned from it (both the knowledge itself and the way it was acquired)

To see details of what the learner and teacher's roles are during each of the 5 stages, please access Dr Fillmore's full slide set at the following link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/5g506j06d16d23w/Learning%20Theories%20and%20How%20to%20Use%20Them.pdf?dl=0>

It will be great to hear people's experience of using these stages in their teaching!

Upcoming Events

Next meeting:

Wednesday 5th December

13:00 - MTC 009 & 011

Professor Richard Tunstall
"Lectures: A Thing of the Past or a Mainstay for Medical Education?"

Quote of the Month:

"Learning is not just acquiring knowledge. It involves making sense of it and making use of it"

Research Article Spotlight:

"Warwick Medical School: A four dimensional curriculum"

de Cates, Paul, Katherine Owen,
and Colin Francis Macdougall.
Medical Teacher (2018): 1-7.

Contact: Erin Fillmore Erin.Fillmore@warwick.ac.uk

Helen Jones H.Jones.6@warwick.ac.uk

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