

4/2012

Primary Health Care
<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/primaryhealthcare/>



Teaching Newsletter

Canyng Hall, 39 Whatley Rd, BS8 2PS Tel 0117 3314544 Fax 0117 9287325
phc-teaching@bristol.ac.uk

Summer workshop 26th June Teaching Inspirations — Primary Care unboxed Engineers' House, Clifton, Bristol

In the morning Caroline Yandell who is thrice qualified as GP, researcher and theologian will take us into the maze of **ethics and beliefs** and will share her experience of teaching these topics to a group of second year students. Ellayne Fowler, a TLHP Teaching Fellow will drill down to the 'molecular level of consultation skills' by taking a look at **metaphors in illness**. In the afternoon we will tell you about the new national prescribing exam for students and discuss how we can best teach prescribing in years 1-5. To round the day off, Dr. Chris Payne, recently retired Director of Public Health for South Gloucestershire, will '**ask the right questions**', frontline epidemiology to guide what we should be doing.



We are hoping to also have a student SSC (student selected component) presentation.

And most importantly we will award the **teaching prizes** to the GP teachers who have been nominated by their students.

This workshop is intended for qualified GPs who have been actively teaching in this or the last academic year.

To book please email phc-teaching@bristol.ac.uk

Important!

New Procedure for Payment of Self Employed GPs for Ad Hoc University Work

Do you complete fee claim forms for ad-hoc university work such as examining, teaching communication skills or running student selected components? If so, please send an e-mail to this address: Finance-vat@bristol.ac.uk

The University is revising its method of paying self employed individuals and needs to collect some additional information. If you send an e-mail to this address you will be sent a questionnaire and a unique reference number. You will have to write this reference number on every claim form.

Teaching workshop for GPs in training 11th June 2012

2-5pm, Deanery House, Vantage Park, Bristol

This workshop is for GPs in training who will be working in General Practice from August 2012 and are definitely committing themselves to teaching a group of 3rd year students during their GP attachment.

If you have a GP Registrar in post from August 2012, please encourage him or her to consider teaching a group of 3rd year students for 4 sessions.

To book a place on this workshop email phc-teaching@bristol.ac.uk

Spirituality in consultations?

Do you sometimes wonder how to connect up with what really matters to your patients? Please go to page 2 and read Trevor's summary of an inspiring lecture.



Teaching Newsletter

Canynge Hall, 39 Whatley Rd, BS8 2PS Tel 0117 3314544 Fax 0117 9287325
phc-teaching@bristol.ac.uk

Spirituality in Health Care

On Thursday 19th April a group of about 20 GPs and six medical students heard a talk by Dr Fred Craigie on "Spirituality in Healthcare". Fred is an associate professor at Dartmouth medical school in New Hampshire and is on Sabbatical in UK.

In his talk he addressed an area of clinical care that many of us feel is instinctively important but struggle to address. Others of us may be wary of the religious overtones of the word spirituality in this secular age. Interestingly Fred's talk never mentioned prayer and made only passing reference to religion. The spirituality that interests Fred is whatever it is that is really meaningful to the patient or what US Surgeon General C Everett Koop, MD referred to "The vital centre of a person".

Fred distinguished three arenas of spirituality: the personal, the clinical and the organisational. He didn't feel that techniques and training were as important as "presence", an attitude of open-hearted attention, and offered various pointers to enhancing this in ourselves.

Colleagues noted that they often felt "present" for the first half dozen patients of the day but thereafter things could slip. The high road to good spiritual care is the judicious use of enquiries such as "What is important to you these days?". He noted that spiritual care was more important in some contexts than others, fertile ground for such discussions included "well person visits", "lifestyle change discussions", "life-transitions" such as becoming a parent and "serious illness".

One quote I really liked from Fred "questions are more healing than statements". In clinical care he made an interesting distinction between the need for transcendence (dealing with the pain of life without being overwhelmed by it) and purpose (connecting with and acting upon what is important).

He gave an example of a addiction-tortured patient who had been transformed by finding a role in caring for her aging father. He acknowledged the problem of finding time to enter these discussions but also shared anecdotes of quick interventions that made marked impacts. He also had some interesting things to say about the soul of our organisations, those that communicated a sense of "graciousness and welcome".

Overall I found this an uplifting evening and Fred a congruent and gracious colleague with, as Debbie Sharp might say, a "straight bat". I think this is something we could talk about more with students - it is just a matter of finding the language. Fred has a book expanding on these ideas available on Amazon called "Positive Spirituality in Health Care".

Trevor Thompson