

# **Cultural Competency: Relevance and Implementation into Medical School Curriculum**

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This workshop will cover several issues pertaining to cultural competency, including:

- Defining cultural competency and cultural humility
- Describing its importance in healthcare
  - how it relates to current healthcare disparities
  - how it would improve healthcare to minorities or disadvantaged patients
- Highlights of Stritch's existing curricular cultural components
  - PCM sessions on religion, global health, etc.
- Highlights of Stritch's extracurricular cultural components, e.g.:
  - NNLAMS
  - AMSA
  - PHR
- Discussion of our cultural competency survey that was given to current 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> year medical students in spring of 2007
- Open discussion to elicit current students' suggestions and thoughts
- Discuss possibilities of how to improve medical school curriculum in order to create more culturally competent physicians

An explanation on how the workshop will be lead:

PowerPoint Presentation that includes:

- Outline of above topics
- Cultural Competency Questionnaire: sample questions, graph of results
- Actual clinical cases revealing importance/need of culturally competent physicians

Presentation will be interactive, inviting thoughtful discussions on:

- How would you define cultural competency?
- How would you implement cultural competency into a medical school curriculum?
- Clinical Cases: how would you deal with these cultural issues?

A description of expertise/previous work in this area:

- As 1<sup>st</sup> years, we have had a few PCM sessions on cultural competency
- With the help of the Department of Preventative Medicine (Dr. Lena Hatchett), the Bioethics Institute, and the Stritch Curriculum Task Force (Dr. Sigman), we are developing a cultural competency presentation for the "Si, Se Puede Conference" to be held in June 2007. This project entailed selecting and administering a Cultural Competency Questionnaire to Stritch medical students, statistical analysis of results, and recommendations for implementing cultural competency into a medical school curriculum.

- We each bring a variety of our own personal experiences working with minorities and/or disadvantaged patients.

An outline of the goals for the workshop and specific tools the participants will gain:

Our workshop goals include:

- Increasing understanding and awareness of cultural competency and its relevance both professionally and personally in the lives of healthcare workers
- Exploring and developing ways to address certain cultural dilemmas as presented in the clinical cases
- Motivate participants to expand their own cultural experiences
- Motivate overall change in how medical schools approach cultural competency
- Increasing awareness of how cultural competency impacts social justice in health care

A description on how this workshop will serve the overall goals of the summit:

- This workshop will provide essential information on cultural competency and how it can improve social justice in healthcare
- This workshop will hopefully encourage participants to become more culturally competent and consequently improve healthcare to the disadvantaged, minorities, and the underserved



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