Developing the scholarship of medical educators: a challenge in the present era of change

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Medical education is in an era of rapid change. The main driver appears to be a desire to improve the quality of medical education, but how can this be achieved?

Medical education as they do to their other professional discipline, such as being a physician or being a general medical practitioner. The potential of the new academy to improve the quality of medical education will be determined by its members and their understanding of the nature of the scholarship of medical education.

Several criteria can be used to evaluate the excellence of medical educators,

Improved quality of medical education requires sustained local action, with strong leadership, adequate resources, academic recognition and regular peer-group meetings. Appointment and promotion boards often appear to give little academic recognition for the scholarship of education and this must be overcome. It is also essential for groups of medical educators to regularly meet to question their approach to teaching and learning.

An important aspect of the scholarship of medical education is the critical evaluation of day to day teaching activity and this can have an inquiry led focus, with the development of research into practice. We suggest that very few medical educators regularly participate in this aspect of scholarship.

The new Academy for Medical Educators is an essential step in the future scholarship of medical educators, but improved quality in medical education in this present era of change will require all medical educators to have a commitment to engage in peer led inquiry into their day to day educational practice. This personal responsibility to scholarship is a challenge to all medical educators and the academy will need to respond by providing strong leadership, professional recognition and support at both local and national levels.

REFERENCES
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