

## Foundation concepts: Resident-led series on common clinical presentations for medical students

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We devised a simple and effective means to develop essential skills in the Medical Expert, Communicator and Scholar Roles. A biweekly interactive session was initiated in September 2008 and offered to first-year medical students at the Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine at McMaster University.

These informal case-based sessions led by postgraduate year 1 residents model the "morning report" format commonly used in clinical teaching units for internal medicine. Each session follows a similar format. The resident presents a case on a blackboard and the students inquire about the past medical, social and family history, as well as the presenting symptoms, to determine a differential diagnosis.

It is the resident's responsibility to organize the ideas of each student, encouraging him or her to provide reasons for each question, and helping him or her to develop a differential. Students refine the differential by asking which important physical findings and laboratory investigations should be sought. Concluding the session, the resident provides a practical algorithmic approach, tying in pertinent information elicited by students from the history, physical and laboratory investigations, while adding clinically relevant pearls.

Formal feedback is provided by students to evaluate each session, with a focus on the quality of teaching. Early exposure to interactive group teaching, with reinforcement of core clinical concepts and individual constructive feedback provides junior residents with opportunities to develop teaching skills necessary for senior positions.

This program is an asset for medical students and a promising tool for training residents as educators. The success of these sessions prompted interest in expanding into other disciplines, including pediatrics, primary care and obstetrics. Ongoing research will determine whether this intervention facilitates residents' success and increases ease of teaching in a senior position.

### Reference(s):

V.K Mahabir, P. Seth. Foundation Concepts: Resident-Led Series on Common Clinical Presentations for Medical Students. 2008.