

Tool to promote CanMEDS teaching and evaluation in Laboratory Medicine

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The objective of this project was to develop an educational tool to (1) provide education to clinical and medical microbiologists about CanMEDS and make the competencies more relevant to Laboratory Medicine and (2) increase CanMEDS teaching by providing microbiologists with ideas on how CanMEDS teaching can be incorporated into their daily work with residents.

A teaching tool was created that identified activities already occurring in the microbiology training program or those that could easily be incorporated into existing rotations. It was circulated to clinical (PhD) and medical (MD) microbiologists. The tool outlined activities in microbiology that met 6 CanMEDS competencies, excluding Medical Expert. Microbiologists were asked to explicitly identify the CanMEDS competencies applicable to these activities when teaching residents.

Most faculty members found this approach useful as it allowed them to better understand how CanMEDS applies to Laboratory Medicine and it provided them with an easy way to increase their CanMEDS teaching without increasing their workload. The residents reported that CanMEDS teaching had increased during laboratory rotations after the tool was introduced. Laboratory rotation evaluations had fewer "not applicable" rankings in the Health Advocate category following this initiative.

The tool has been shared with other laboratory medicine program directors and the approach used in its development has been used in faculty teaching at the postgraduate level.