

Medical school learning communities: what's in the literature?

Marjorie Wenrich

University of Washington School of Medicine

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Learning Communities Institute



Are we getting enough into the literature about medical school LCs?

- Number of medical school learning communities in North America: at least 38 LCs; more planned or being developed
- Number of articles about learning communities: 30+ total
- Most descriptive/process; few about outcomes



Descriptive articles about medical school learning communities

- Overall LC descriptions/analyses
 - Irby/Wilkerson: LCs as educational innovation
 - Hafferty/Watson: Socio-structural analysis
 - Ferguson et al: Defining and describing LCs
- School-specific descriptions
 - Drees et al: UMKC
 - Goldstein et al: UW
 - Stewart et al: Johns Hopkins
 - Hurt/Harris: Florida State University
 - Moynahan/Gordon: U Arizona

Process articles



Process articles: psychosocial

- **Engagement/leadership:** Bicket et al (Hopkins)
- **Career decisions:** Murr et al (UCSF)
- **Stress:** Calkins et al; Arnold & Jensen (UMKC)
- **Mentorship:** Dobie et al (UW)
- **Professionalism:** Goldstein et al; Baernstein et al (UW)



Process articles: curriculum

- **Oral case presentation:** Levine et al; Shochet et al (Hopkins)
- **Preparation for clerkships:** Wenrich et al (UW)
- **Creative demonstration of competencies:** Terregino/Saks (UMDNJ-RWJ)
- **Lexicon of communication terms:** Arnold R et al (UW)
- **Benchmarks/tools for teaching communication skills:** Losh et al (UW)

Outcomes articles

Outcomes articles: psychosocial

- **Increased connection:** Rosenbaum et al (Carver)
- **Satisfaction with mentoring:** Coates et al (UCLA)
- **Wellness, career counseling:** Sastre et al (Vanderbilt)



Outcomes: curricular

- **Basic clerkship performance:**
Jackson et al (UW)
- **Comfort with clinical skills at start of clerkships:** Whipple et al (UW)



Outcomes: faculty

- **Evaluation of teachers:** Ashar et al (Johns Hopkins)
- **Faculty clinical skills:** Wenrich et al (UW)

Future directions

- Good start but...
- Need more
- More outcome studies
- More about innovations around/
within LCs
- Theoretical perspective
- Cross-institutional studies