



Advocacy in Medicine

Advocacy=verbal support or argument
for a cause, policy, etc.

Advocate=a person who supports or
speaks in favour, a person who pleads for
another

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GOALS

- Who are the doctors being advocates today?
(Russel et al survey)
 - Pros and Cons i.e. Should we do it?
(Huddle article)
 - Define advocacy: Agency and Activism
(Dobson et al article)
 - Examples of Agency and Activism in Medicine
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Disclosures

- No funding from a pharmaceutical company
- No funding from any organization
- Current president of Physicians for Global Survival, Canadian affiliate of IPPNW
- Son of political exiles from Chile, South America



CanMEDS-Family Medicine

Image adapted from the CanMEDS Physician Competency Diagram with permission of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. Copyright © 2009.



Public Roles of US Physicians

Community Participation,
Political Involvement, and

Collective Advocacy

Russell L. Gruen, MBBS,

PhD Eric G. Campbell,

PhD





Survey of US Physicians: importance of public role

- Three dimensions of civic-mindedness: Community Participation, Political Involvement, Collective Advocacy (1234)
- The importance of health-related issues: health insurance for the uninsured, reduction in obesity and better nutrition, reduction in unemployment, reduction in air pollution, prevention of teenage substance abuse, increased basic literacy levels, tobacco control, gun control, immunization, (1234)
- Civic action/activity in past 3 years (Y/N)
- Randomly selected 3504 MD, 584 per specialty



Results of Survey

- More than 90% rated 3 dimensions as important (very important for CP and CA)
- Very important issues, 72-82%: nutrition, immunization, substance abuse, road safety (more than access to care, unemployment or illiteracy, 22-43%)
- Two thirds had participated in at least 1/3 activities in past 3 years
- Civic-mindedness and civic action: factors
- Conclusions: public roles widely supported
- Limitations of study
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**Medical Professionalism
and Medical Education
Should Not Involve
Commitments to Political
Advocacy** Thomas S.
Huddle, MD, PhD

A physician's role

- Practising medicine within **traditional medical ethics**, which is "...advocacy for individual patients"; "to do some work, probably uncompensated, for the medically under-served"; providing "competent and ethical clinical work...in the systems and settings provided by society"; "to provide advice when society acts collectively to improve public health or health care access."
- We must not make advocacy compulsory in medical school curriculums or in residency training programs, as this is imposing a **political** stance

Dr. Isabelle Leblanc





MÉDECINS QUÉBÉCOIS
POUR LE RÉGIME PUBLIC



Dr. Meb Rashid & friends



Canadian Doctors for Refugee Care





**Community-Based
Patient-Physician Relationship**

**Skilled Clinician
Resource to a Defined Population**

CanMEDS-**Family Medicine**

Image adapted from the CanMEDS Physician Competency Diagram with permission of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. Copyright © 2009.

Communicator



Professional



What is advocacy?







Government policies affect our clinical work





**Perspective: Agency and
Activism: Rethinking
Health Advocacy in the
Medical Profession Sarah
Dobson, MSc, Stéphane
Voyer, MDCCM, MEd, and
Glenn Regehr, PhD**





CanMEDS

In this framework the Health Advocate role asks physicians “to responsibly use their expertise and influence to advance the health and well-being of individual patients, communities and populations”

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Health Advocacy: Two Subroles

Agency involves advancing the health of individual patients (“working the system”), and activism involves advancing the health of communities and populations (“changing the system”).

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A case of mental health, divorce and exploitation





Activism as “other”

- Different goals and different skillsets
 - “all physicians *might* be trained to engage in some form of activism in their daily clinical practice, and we might explore how to envision this “everyday activism.”
 - another possibility, the activist role might become its own medical specialty, whereby a subset of individuals would be entrusted, empowered, and educated to perform activist activities on the profession’s behalf.
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Advocacy: clinic, community and beyond



CONCLUSIONS

- Agency and Activism as two distinct subroles of Advocacy
- Minority of doctors are activists, many are agents
- Further development of the Advocacy CanMEDS role is needed: specify and specialize?
- Differences of opinion amongst doctors

1955 Russell-Einstein
Manifesto: “We appeal as
human beings to human
beings: Remember your
humanity, and forget the
rest.”

Dr. Allende: prescription for Chile



My Mom and Sting



PGS and IPPNW



PHYSICIANS FOR GLOBAL SURVIVAL
MÉDECINS POUR LA SURVIE MONDIALE
CANADA



Gentilly-2



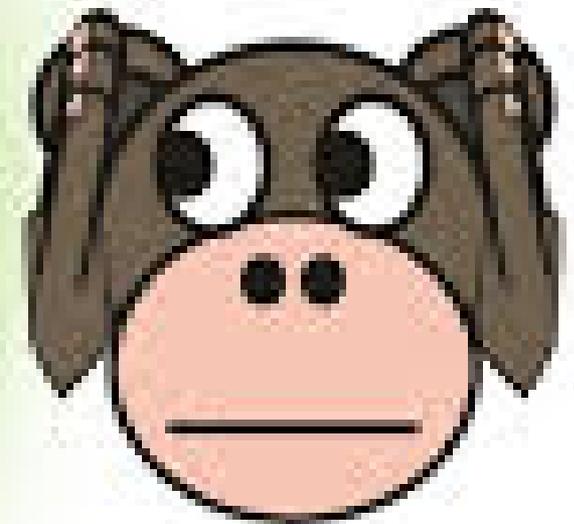
World Uranium Symposium April 2015



Canada-India Nuclear Deal



What's the latest on Fukushima?



Mayors for Peace



IPPNW & PGS

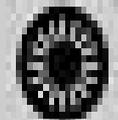




BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS BANNED 1972



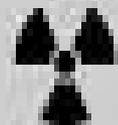
CHEMICAL WEAPONS BANNED 1993



LAND MINES BANNED 1997



CLUSTER BOMBS BANNED 2008



NUCLEAR WEAPONS BANNED ____?



CAPE





CPAR

