Foundations in Medical Education

Contact Information

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<td>Dr. Stuart Lubarsky</td>
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Site(s)

McGill Centre for Medical Education

General Information

Foundations in Medical Education is a non-clinical elective intended for clerkship students in their 3rd or 4th year of the undergraduate medical curriculum at McGill, as well as for residents at all levels of postgraduate training. Based in the McGill Centre for Medical Education (Lady Meredith House, corner of Peel and Pine), the elective will be offered on an annual basis in Period 6 of the rotation schedule, which generally falls between November-December of the calendar year. We anticipate registration of approximately 6-8 students per year.

Elective Duration

4 weeks

Instructor Information

Course leaders:
Robert Sternszus, MDCM, MA(Ed.), FRCPC
Core Member, McGill Centre for Medical Education
Pediatrician, Montreal Children’s Hospital

Stuart Lubarsky, MD, MHPE, FRCPC
Core Member, McGill Centre for Medical Education
Neurologist, Montreal General Hospital

In addition to the course leaders, various instructors from the McGill Centre for Medical Education will facilitate small group sessions on selected topics in medical education (see below).
Course Overview

This 4-week structured elective is intended to expose students and residents to the field of medical education. Through interactive lectures, group discussions, individual and group projects, and participation in the activities of the Centre for Medical Education, learners will develop essential knowledge and skills in curriculum design, teaching and learning, assessment, program evaluation, and educational research and scholarship.

For learners wishing to focus chiefly on research in medical education, the Centre for Medical Education offers a Scholarship in Medical Education elective during which participants will have the opportunity to develop a scholarly project in medical education under the supervision of selected members of the Centre.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this 4-week elective, participants will be able to:

1. Describe fundamental principles of teaching, learning, assessment, and scholarship in medical education.
2. Design a curriculum or educational program related to medical education
3. Transform an idea or problem in medical education into a researchable question and conduct a literature review relevant to that question
4. Effectively present ideas and lead classroom discussions

Instructional Method

This 4-week project-based course will centre around the creation of a program or curriculum in medical education. Students will be provided with a few options of programs/curricula that they can work on and will be working in small groups to complete the project (e.g., create a program to teach communication skills to first year medical students). Each week of the course will have project milestones that must be met, and all formal teaching sessions during that week will be designed to help the learners achieve those milestones. Learners will present their projects to centre members during week 4 of the course.

Additional learning activities include:

- Attendance at Centre meetings and Med Ed rounds
- Direct observations of teaching in different settings (sim centre, lecture, clinical teaching etc. and give them an observation log)
- Required readings
- A significant portion of their time will be devoted to group work on the project
### Required Course Materials

None.

### Course Content

General themes and topics of the course include:

- Principles of adult learning
- What is a curriculum? Outcomes, delivery, assessment, evaluation, alignment
- Creating learning outcomes
- Effective lecturing and small group teaching
- Effective teaching in simulation and clinical settings
- Principles of assessment
- Principles of program evaluation
- Principles of scholarship in health professions education
- Methodologies in HPE research
- Searching the literature
- Knowledge translation in medical education

### Assessment: which can be formative and summative

For each student, an Elective Assessment Form (EAS) will be completed based on his or her performance in the following areas:

- Group project- Written paper describing their curriculum/program and the educational principles that underlie it
- Group presentation- Presentation of their curriculum/program to the Centre members
- Individual project- Conducting a literature review aimed at answering a question related to the development, delivery, or evaluation of their curriculum/program.
- Participation/ peer-assessment

### Course Evaluation

The first year of this course will be a pilot year in order for us to fine-tune its components and determine its viability. A basic evaluation focused on the overall usefulness of the course as a whole as well as its individual components will be undertaken. A more extensive/scholarly program evaluation will be discussed for future iterations of the course.