

Publishing medical schools' USMLE Step I scores: increase preclinical education accountability and national standards

Adam EM Eltorai

Brown University, Warren Alpert
Medical School, Providence, RI, USA

Dear Editor

Medical education innovation is a field of active investigation.^{1,2} Whether it is problem-based learning, lectures, discussion groups, systems-based blocks, integrated courses, video-captured, pass-fail, or iPad-requiring, every medical school approaches preclinical education differently. Which combination of these methods is most effective?

To answer this, I propose that medical schools ought to be required to publish their average United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Step 1 scores annually. In doing so, the most effective education methods will emerge.

Individual school's curricular changes can function as pilot studies. For example, if one year, a medical school implements a curriculum innovation and its students perform on average 10 points higher on the USMLE Step 1, then the innovation should earn greater consideration. Or, if another medical school consistently scores below medical schools with similar student bodies, then the curricular differences should be examined.

Publishing medical schools' USMLE Step 1 scores, will increase transparency and make each school more accountable for the quality of its education. Deans of medical education around the country will be able to collaborate and implement the most effective strategies at their own schools. The "multi-institutional curricular effort"³ will progressively raise the standards of medical education, translating into better educated future physicians.

References

1. McGee JB, Kanter SL. How we develop and sustain innovation in medical education technology: keys to success. *Med Teach*. 2011;33(4):279–285.
2. Bland CJ, Starnaman S, Wersal L, Moorhead-Rosenberg L, Zonia S, Henry R. Curricular change in medical schools: how to succeed. *Academic Medicine*. 2000;75(6):575–594.
3. Thomas, P. Medical education curricula. *J Gen Int Med*. 1999;14:449–450.

Correspondence: Adam EM Eltorai
Brown University,
Warren Alpert Medical School,
Box G-9247, Providence, RI 02903, USA
Tel +1 401 863 2149
Fax +1 401 863 5096
Email aeltorai@gmail.com

Advances in Medical Education and Practice**Dovepress****Publish your work in this journal**

Advances in Medical Education and Practice is an international, peer-reviewed, open access journal that aims to present and publish research on Medical Education covering medical, dental, nursing and allied healthcare professional education. The journal covers undergraduate education, postgraduate training and continuing medical education

including emerging trends and innovative models linking education, research, and healthcare services. The manuscript management system is completely online and includes a very quick and fair peer-review system. Visit <http://www.dovepress.com/testimonials.php> to read real quotes from published authors.

Submit your manuscript here: <http://www.dovepress.com/advances-in-medical-education-and-practice-journal>