

Thinking and communicating outside the box: a new perspective in chemical pathology instruction and communication

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This research involved the use of specifically drawn up poetry, relevant movie clips and other activities to create a suitable blend of learning processes and hence generate an environment conducive to multi-modal learning. Aims: This main research aim was to gain new insights into the effectiveness of incorporation of these novel modalities, such as targeted movie selections and specifically drawn up poetry, into chemical pathology instruction for better learning outcomes of improved teaching path frameworks.

Methods: The main study arms were: the medical student cohort, the school aged children cohort, as well as a convention cohort, amongst others. The medical student arm in turn comprised a number of sub-studies, not solely incorporation of clips or poetic elements within the session itself, but also an exercise on testing retention, a preliminary study about interest in a teaching weekend, a chemical pathology weekend itself and associated entities such as production of a textbook incorporating the novel aspects in question. Various methods were used while progressing through the various milestones of the study and included semistructured feedback and questionnaires.

Results: Overall both results from pilot studies and actual studies, indicated positive uptake, to varying degrees, of such inclusions. Models were created and factor analysis was undertaken in each of the study arms to determine significant predictors.

Conclusion: It may be indeed beneficial to use these methods in conjunction with traditional modalities. Although there may be an extent of inter-individual variation in appeal, as predicted by factors analysed, an overall statistically significant response has been recorded. This research elucidated the effectiveness of novel methods such as use of relevant poetry and film excerpts to aid learning in chemical pathology, as well as some factors that may help favour such methods, such as recreational indulgence in these activities and reported linguistic aptitudes.