

AQUIFER EDUCATOR CONNECTION PODCAST

Episode 3: Facilitated Discussions and Role Playing Using Standardized Cases

Guest: Kirstin Nackers, MD, Assistant Professor and Director of Pediatric Undergraduate Medical Education at University of Wisconsin-Madison. Founding course director for Care Across the Life Cycle, an integrated core clinical clerkship, which combines Pediatrics, Obstetrics & Gynecology and Geriatrics.

Host: Lynne Robins, PhD, Professor Emerita, Department of Biomedical Informatics and Medical Education, University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, WA.

Description: In this episode, Dr. Kirstin Nackers shares two examples of case-based instruction she uses to increase student engagement and promote learning in an integrated core clerkship combining Pediatrics, Obstetrics & Gynecology and Geriatrics. She describes the first example as a “COVID-induced improvement”, recalling that when COVID restrictions prevented students from learning about diagnosis and treatment of patients with fever in actual clinical contexts, she turned to Aquifer’s fever case to teach this core content. The lesson she learned was that using a single case enabled her to improve teaching sessions by developing a standardized discussion guide that faculty facilitators could use to focus interactive discussion and better ensure achievement of session learning objectives. The second way she uses cases is to develop role plays for a session designed to teach students about abuse, neglect, and mandated reporting. The goal of the session is not only to increase students’ knowledge about mandated reporting requirements – but to increase students’ comfort talking about those tough topics with patients. She has found that an engaging way to master communication skills is through practice with role play followed by structured debriefing.

Kirstin’s Lessons Learned:

- Standardized cases improve student engagement and interactivity, the flow of teaching sessions, and the achievement of session learning objectives.
- Cases provide an opportunity for an expanded facilitator pool since the cases enable development of standardized question guides and other facilitator resources.
- Role play extends case-based learning to include practice of key communication skills.

Links to resources mentioned in this episode:

- See Kirstin’s 8-minute presentation as part of the webinar [Lessons Learned from COVID: Best Practices for Using Aquifer in Virtual Courses](#) (starting at 24:34)

Theme Music: "Little Idea" by scottholmesmusic.com