

AQUIFER EDUCATOR CONNECTION PODCAST

Episode 4: Easing the Transition from Pre-Clinical to Clinical Learning

Guest: Traci Marquis-Eydman, Associate Professor & Director of the Maine Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship | Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University

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. Traci Marquis-Eydman describes the benefits of using a hybrid approach to orienting students as they begin their clinical learning phase. The transition to clinical learning is always challenging, as students must not only shift to applying knowledge in busy clinical settings, but they must also develop as professionals, thinking and acting as vital and responsible healthcare team members. When COVID learning disruptions exacerbated the challenges of this transition by limiting student and faculty ability to interact face-to-face, Traci developed a hybrid orientation that incorporated online delivery of essential content using Aquifer cases and optimization of in-person time for team building and learning sessions requiring face-to-face interaction and participation. On completion of the course students rated the course positively, felt more prepared for the wards and clinical reasoning, and got to know faculty and staff more than in previous years.

Traci's Lessons Learned:

1. Prioritize what you want students to learn during orientation.
 - a. Don't overwhelm them.
 - b. Build in curricular time for debriefing and reflection.
 - c. Follow up with students to ensure there is a match between what you wanted them to learn and what they actually learned.
2. Keep in person the things that are best left in person: team bonding, getting to know faculty and staff, hands-on simulation sessions, and orientation to the clinical setting. Using the cases to build foundational knowledge allowing for more focus during your high-value in-person time.
3. Emphasize the importance of being a hands-on clinician and not just a student as you transition students to the clinical phase.
4. Orientation is a good time to introduce foundational knowledge about health systems science.

Links to resources mentioned in this episode:

- See Traci's 8-minute presentation as part of the webinar [Lessons Learned from COVID: Best Practices for Using Aquifer in Virtual Courses](#) (starting at 17:32)
- [Traci's blog post](#)

Theme Music: "Little Idea" by scottholmesmusic.com