Amee 2017 Abstract

Lunelle’s abstract titled ‘Patient diversity and student education’ was presented at Amee 2017 conference held in Helsinki, Finland 26 to 30 August. The oral presentation is notable given that most abstracts submitted are chosen as poster presentations.

It is essential that undergraduate medical students have curricula aimed at instilling values which enable the provision of optimal, equitable, non-discriminatory health care to patients from all walks of life. South Africa as a developing country, history of colonialism and post-apartheid, need education which do not reinforce past assumptions.

Review of the literature focus on undergraduate medical education to view the evidence for teaching and assessment aimed at providing health care to all patients irrespective of socioeconomic background, ethnicity, gender preference, language, physical disability, religion, or spiritual beliefs. Web of science database was searched including search on google scholar.

Various educational approaches are offered to educate students include diversity education, cross culture/, multi culture/ and critical culture and cultural competency. Focus on understanding culture within many of the approaches. Teaching strategies were discussed in detailed with limited reference to assessment methods in ensuring outcomes are met. The review shows strong focus on understanding culture of others. Limited scope of how knowledge, attitudes and behaviour when it is taught is assessed.

The literature studied shows that research on diversity broadly emanates from developed countries. For developing countries, it is important to interrogate their teaching, learning and assessment practices when including diversity education in the curriculum to ensure that it is contextually relevant and appropriate.

Human diversity in health sciences education should cultivate respect for similarities and differences beyond understanding culture. And interrogate the enduring arrangements of power, privilege, and racialized past of some societies. This preliminary research has laid the groundwork for future work in diversity education in a developing country.