

Short-term Overseas Exchange Program (SOEP) as a New Way of Medical Humanities Education

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Summary of Work: This study collected data through literature review, review of students' exchange reports, interview and questionnaire of selected exchange students; the data is then used to examine the how SOEP can enhance medical humanities among medical students.

Background: Medical humanities are an important part of medicine, and the medical humanities education can be conducted in many different ways. Peking University Health Science Center (PKUHSC) has focused on developing clinical Student Oversea Exchange Program (SOEP, also called international clinical placement or international clinical rotation) in the past decade, and currently sends out about 30% of its medical students to its oversea partners to do clinical rotations. SOEP has become an important way of medical humanities education in PKUHSC.



PKUHSC exchange student Miss Feier Feng with her patient Akita who she looked after during her one-month elective in UBC, 2013.

Miss Feng said: "what she learnt in UBC is that disease is no the end, cure is not the only intention; for the patient, understanding, comfort and console are more important."

Summary of Results: SOEP is an important way of medical humanities education. The way SOEP enhance medical humanities are shown in the following two aspects:

Cultivate medical humanities spirit (immersion in a different social and cultural environment and cultivate global health perspective; develop personal and professional value, including the respect and care of life, and person-centered care; participate in related medical humanities courses and discussions, and expand their knowledge in related disciplines, including medical ethics, medical law, medical history, medical philosophy and medical psychology etc.).

Develop medical humanities capability (interpersonal communicate skills and language skills; learning and innovative thinking ability; team spirit and leadership; emotion management).



"I find that doctors have excellent performance in the four aspects: team spirit, credit and honor, efficiency, diligence. I leant a great deal from them. These qualities are very important as doctors face great work pressure and intense doctor-patient relationship in China."

--Miss Yilei He, PKUHSC exchange student in UC Davis in 2015.

Conclusion: SOEP can develop clinical students' medical humanities spirit and capabilities from many different aspects, and is an important way of medical humanities education. Therefore, medical institutions should promote SOEP.