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Medical Curricula – Steam engines in the 21st Century

Abstract:

It is abundantly clear to many who are involved in medical education that we live in a changing world; one where the pace of change is increasing beyond our personal experiences. The impact of these changes on how medicine will be practiced is the subject on every medical educators' lips. Yet, actual and substantial change in the medical curricula has not happened.

We very quickly point to the knowledge explosion, the easy and quick access of information, the advances of medical devices, the ever rising expectations of patients, the increasing demand for health care as well as the aging population. We also lament the increasing medicolegal actions against doctors and medical institutions.

Yet, medical undergraduates the world over are still following a system of training that is rigid and compact. Despite common acceptance that future doctors need to practice differently, we continue to train doctors in the same fashion.

Is the problem the result of over-regulation, caution or a loss of purpose and direction in medical education or is it a lack of bold and visionary leaders of medical education?