

Editorial:

Medical education Amal Swidan *FICMS*

The importance of medical education need not to be emphasized, it is the long yet joyful journey, challenging study that transfer high school graduate into medical doctors who relive pain, prolong life and improve its quality via their knowledge, skills and attitudes.

Health care is largely medical care especially in Iraq where paramedics' roles are not very much fulfilled.

Making a medical doctor in six years period may not be a simple job particularly nowadays with medical knowledge growing exponentially, information technology pushing medical education as well as medical practice towards contemporary methodologies. Major changes that involved all people without any exception, i.e., students and patients,

Medical students are coming from different social backgrounds with different attitudes. In our country high school graduate in general and those who get admitted into medical schools in particular adopt a spoon feeding type of learning that make many of them highly dependent in their consecutive learning.

Patient expectations are changing and they share their care taker increasingly throughout the management process.

More over contemporary medical education institutes should be accredited by certain eligible bodies after meeting specific agreed upon standards.

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From the above, medical education is a vital process that necessitates continuous evaluation and development. One essential question that may come to mind is what to teach?

The medical knowledge is huge in contrast to the relatively limited time available for teaching. Many teachers still feel that they should teach every detail and prepare distended lectures (sometimes information may be repeated by different teachers from different disciplines). Students spend the whole time of a lecture in dictating from a board or a screen.

The lecture may be described in such case as the transfer of teacher's notes to student's notebooks by passing their brains.

The answer to the "What to teach?" may need to categorize medical knowledge into:

- Core knowledge
- Useful to know
- Interesting to know

The first category is the most important as it involves what should be really mastered by students and to achieve this; core knowledge should get clarified to the best of one knowledge, emphasized in teaching and in assessment. Here one may ask what part(s) is to be considered as core knowledge.

The journey of medical education has just come to a relevant station that should be shared with stakeholders.

We all know that graduates of medical colleges work as resident