

Journal Club: Defining Disability

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Goal: To introduce disability issues to medical students in the context of critical exploration of research practices.

Estimated Time: 40 minutes

Recommended Group Size: <12 medical students

Outcome Objectives:

1. Students will be able to recognize discomfort as being a common experience for medical students as they learn to work with patients with disability.
2. Students will be able to compare and contrast their thoughts related to disability to the thoughts of their peers.

Byron M, Cockshott Z, Brownett H, Ramkalawan T. What does "disability" mean for medical students? An exploration of the words medical students associate with the term "disability". *Med Educ.* 2005;39(2):176-183. doi:10.1111/j.1365-2929.2004.02062.x.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do baseline words provided by the medical students compare to your own thoughts on disability before reviewing this article? Have your thoughts been at all altered based on the information provided in this article?
2. What difficulties exist when attempting to challenge societal assumptions and stereotypes?
3. If you were a person with a disability, how might you react to the summary of the baseline words provided by the medical students in this study?
4. How might direct contact with people with disability have influenced the word associations provided by the medical students in this study?
5. Do you believe direct contact with people with disability to be an important aspect of medical education? How might direct contact with people with disability improve medical education?