

## **Teaching Techniques that are Quick!**

As we are unable to manufacture more time in a day, it is imperative that we use the time we do have efficiently. In regards to teaching our learners (i.e. housestaff and students), there are two teaching techniques that are fast, effective, and validated.

### ***The Five Whys: adapted from Toyota Motor Corporation***

Originally developed as a method for root-cause analysis, this technique has been adopted by academia because it can quickly test the depth of knowledge of the learner.

The strategy is simple: Ask a question and then follow-up the learner's answer with a "why?". Repeat for subsequent answers until you feel the learner indeed has provided sound evidence to support the original answer.

Here's an example of a patient with squamous cell lung cancer admitted with mental status changes:

Teacher: What do you think is going on?

Learner: Patient is comatose.

Teacher: Why?

Learner: The patient has hypernatremia.

Teacher: Why?

Learner: The patient is polyuric and nauseated.

Faculty: Why?

Learner: The patient has hypercalcemia.

Faculty: Why?

Learner: Increased bone resorption.

Faculty: Why?

Learner: The patient's squamous cell malignancy is producing PTH-rp.

### ***The One-Minute Preceptor: adapted from Neher, JO, et.al. (1992), Journal of the American Board of Family Practice, 5, 419-424***

Developed at the University of Washington, this method, also known as "5-step microskills model" is an effective tool for teaching clinical pearls while evaluating presenting skills and providing feedback.

The 5-steps in this model could also be thought of as "The 5 Ws":

- 1) "What do you think is going on with the patient?" – this gets a commitment from the learner.
- 2) "Why do you think that?" – this probes for supporting data.
- 3) (W)right things you did in your presentation. – we want to point out and reinforce good skills/behaviors.
- 4) W(ron)g things you did in your presentation. – we want to point out poor skills/behaviors and offer advice on how to fix them.
- 5) W(orking) Point – provide a clinical pearl.

For a demonstration, please see the following videos on YouTube:

The Wrong Way: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=937G0m5SUsl>

The Right Way: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lCeyzpU7PMw>