

# Medical Education Interest Group Newsletter

## All that is Old is New Again: The History of Medicine & Its Impact on Medical Education

January, 2021

WARWICK  
MEDICAL SCHOOL

### Notes from Meeting



Thank you to all of those who came to our January 2021 Medical Education Interest Group meeting! This month we welcomed our internationally renowned speaker, Professor Peter Ward who talked to us about the history of medicine and the place this important subject holds in a modern medical curriculum. Peter helped us to understand that as a curricular topic the history of medicine can: reinforce medical knowledge while integrating the benefits associated with humanities education; and synergistically work within medical school curriculum by linking historical developments to clinical competencies. Some of the examples discussed, linking clinical competencies to historical events and persons, were:

#### Patient Care

Involves patient consent and education



"There are many famous and unfortunate events, such as the Tuskegee syphilis study where physicians did not act benevolently towards patients nor did they inform them of their treatment options."

#### Personal & Professional Development

Includes practicing flexibility and adjusting to stresses



"The career of Joseph Lister is an excellent example of a physician that persevered against the inertia of his colleagues to bring antiseptics to surgery."

#### Knowledge for Practice

Includes an understanding of how medical knowledge has developed into its current state



"One historical example shows how localization of neurologic function developed from the work of Broca, Wernicke and the case of Phineas Gage."

Peter reminded us that history offers a plethora of examples, stories and lessons that can help students (and teachers alike) with **developing their professional identity**, can give individuals a richer **perspective** that is often needed when making difficult decisions, and can also offer individuals a diverse context and **inspiration needed in order to make an ethical stand** that may be necessary in one's training or career.

We were all entertained, amazed and inspired by Professor Ward's talk, learning a lot about how **history has the ability to link past to present and inform medical education today!**

Peter will be providing a reading list for all who are interested in learning more about the history of medicine (keep your eye on the MEIG website for this), and to the right you can find YouTube links to his 6 Part History of Medicine lecture series!



#### Prof Ward's History of Medicine

[Part 1](#)  
[Part 2](#)  
[Part 3](#)

[Part 4](#)  
[Part 5](#)  
[Part 6](#)

### Upcoming Events

#### Next meeting:

Tuesday, Feb 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

1200 – MS Teams

**Dr Emily Unwin**

**Topic: Has the COVID Pandemic Changed Clinical Skills Teaching for the Better?**

### Quote of the Month:

**"Remember that learning is not a linear experience from knowing nothing to knowing everything – there are a lot of ups and downs as you learn, experience, and grow. And history teaches us that!"**

**-Prof Peter Ward**

### Research Article Spotlight:

Investigating the Presence of the History of Medicine in North American Medical Education

*Kent & Ward (2020), Medical Science Educator, 30:1531-9.*

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