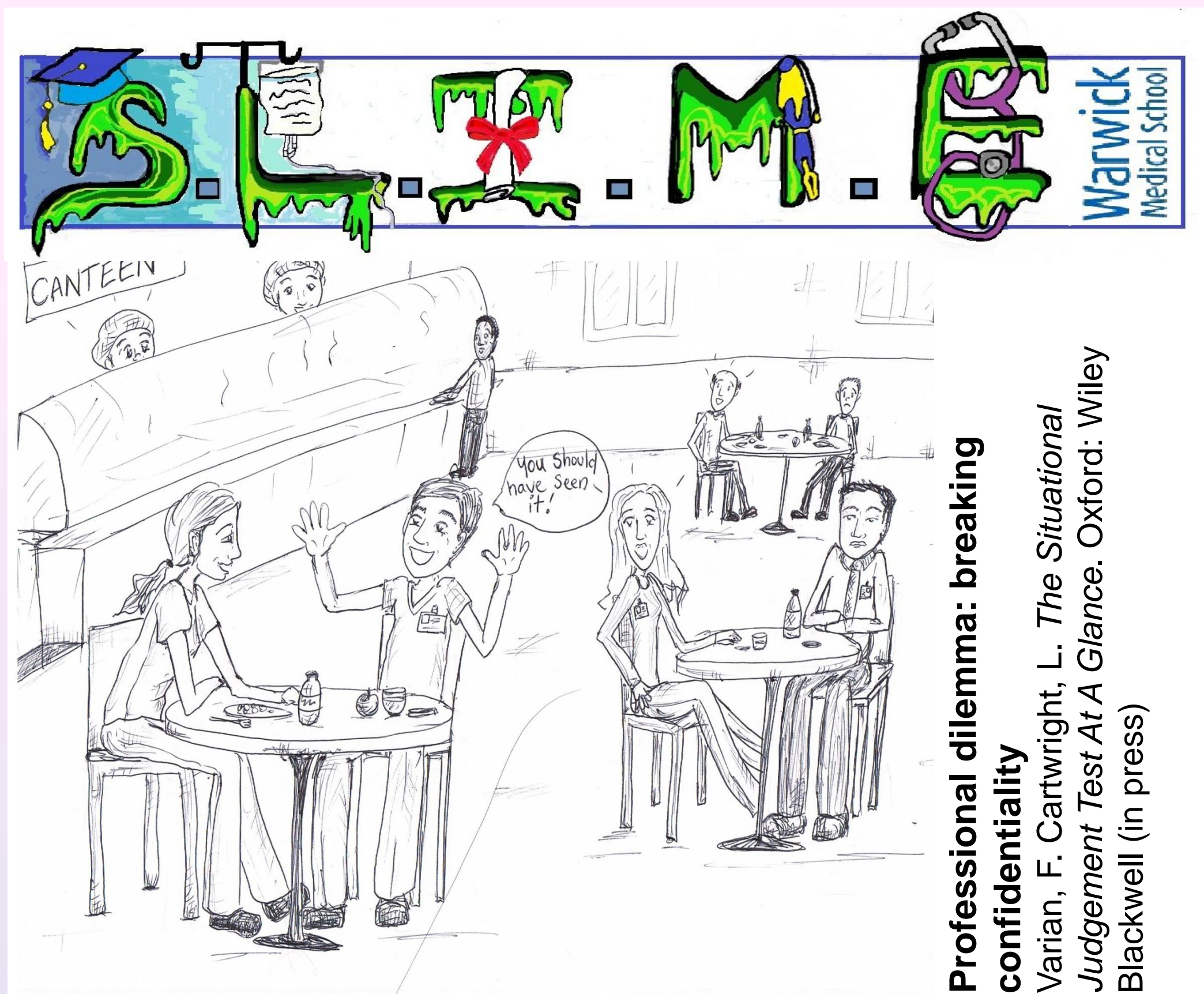


Preparing for Practice: Using Situational Judgement to Influence the Development of Non-Technical Skills (NTS) within Medical Curriculum

What is situational judgement?

- Psychological aptitude test known as professional dilemmas
- Primary method of assessment into UK foundation programme
- Assess nine broad domains of NTS
 1. Commitment to Professionalism
 2. Learning and Professional Development
 3. Working effectively as part of a team
 4. Patient Focus
 5. Problem solving and decision-making
 6. Self-awareness and insight
 7. Coping with pressure
 8. Organisation and planning
 9. Effective communication



How is Warwick Medical School using situational judgement ?

This project produced teaching material based on the 9 domains of the SJT and mapped these to the existing curriculum and learning support at Warwick Medical School. A summary of this is as follows

Years 1 & 2:

- Clinical skills handbook:** 'becoming a professional' section. This includes a brief introduction into SJT and a description of the domains. The SJT domains were used as a basis to create ten challenges that a typical medical student may encounter on the wards.
- Scenarios are discussed within student's personal tutor group before the answers are made available online.
- Students are asked to reflect upon their judgement on each of the scenarios to identify strengths and weaknesses in their NTS.

Years 3 & 4:

- Student workbook:** includes a reading list, interviews to conduct with FY1's, observations and their own scenarios to collect and discuss with their clinical educational supervisor (CES)
- Examples of their experiences are collated to feed back into years 1 & 2.
- Teaching sessions** delivered by CES on NTS, including videos demonstrating good and bad practice for discussion.
- Online SJT examples** corresponding to ethics teaching on different placements available in 'quiz' format for students to practice – formalising knowledge of NTS in a formative manner.

What can we learn from situational judgement ?

- Domains pin down key qualities outlined by Tomorrow's Doctors (2009)
- Valid way of assessing NTS which are weighted of equal importance to academic achievement in the selection process
- Viable solution to the challenge of NTS assessment
- Reiterates the importance of NTS to students in preparing to practice medicine
- Encourages evaluation of students' preparedness for practice across the nine domains

Summary and recommendations

Qualitative evidence confirms:

- SJTs are an accessible way to engage students in NTS
- SJTs make NTS more tangible for students to grasp
- SJTs can be a useful form of assessment for NTS

Situational judgement can be used as a vehicle to influence the development of the medical curriculum with regard to 'non-technical' clinical skills training as part of preparing students for medical practice.