SYDNEY TEACHING COLLOQUIUM 2014

Practice example
ExamBank and the Assessment Process in the Sydney Medical Program

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Abstract
A major strength of the Sydney Medical Program is that many expert teachers from multiple fields, expose students to exemplary research and clinical practice. This diversity creates challenges in assessment as most teachers give only one or two lectures. The Assessment Unit has developed methods for integrating assessment and measuring learning across diverse units of study, medical disciplines and contexts. We have developed “ExamBank”, a web-based question and examination management system to provide a platform for professional and academic staff to interact and create written and clinical assessments. It is used from question entry to exam production and provides result reporting for more than 70 examinations to 1200 students and 1500 teachers. ExamBank enables all teachers to contribute to the assessment process. The Assessment Unit supports this process with question writing workshops, question review sessions and multidisciplinary exam review boards which provide the opportunity for continuous curriculum review. The examination process is managed via ExamBank with curriculum mapping, exam production and reporting. The retention of question performance statistics provides data about stability that is accessible to individual teachers and course supervisors. Analytic reporting provides feedback about question and exam performance which exposes flawed questions and gaps in teaching. Students receive assessment feedback aligned to learning objectives and examination blueprints, encouraging them to address weaknesses in their learning strategies. Academic staff in the Assessment Unit lead national assessment collaborations in Australian medical schools and our assessment practices reflect international best practice. We will demonstrate ExamBank and audience members will participate in question writing, searching and review exercises. ExamBank has been adopted by other medical schools and faculties at the University of Sydney. Representatives from the Faculty of Dentistry and the School of Biological Sciences will report their experience with ExamBank.

Theme
Assessment tasks, practices and processes designed to integrate student learning across units, and across disciplinary, community and professional contexts (theme 2)