Danish University Colleges

tEACH - European network for teaching communication in healthcare

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tEACH is the subcommittee of EACH (European Association for Communication in Healthcare) and has the purpose of providing support, networking and resources for teachers of communication skills throughout Europe. tEACH has at the moment representatives from 16 different countries who meet twice a year to coordinate activities. To enhance efficiency tEACH has a maximum of 3 representatives from each country.

How can YOU use tEACH?
When you are in the process of developing an integrated communication skills curriculum, planning assessments, organizing faculty development and finding teaching tools, - tEACH offers knowledge and experience. On the tEACH web site resources designed specifically for communication curricula are offered and it is possible to come in touch with someone who have developed and used the resources.

Skills are acquired differently from sheer knowledge, guided practice is a necessary addition. Our student need guidance when practicing communication, but teachers also need guidance when teaching skills. tEACH organizes courses and faculty development workshops in order to improve curricula and teaching skills through guided practice.

While many networks affiliated to universities focus on research - tEACH is focused on practice. How to improve skills when teaching communication in health professions. The tEACH group is focused on teaching communication with patients, but the network also offers experience and knowledge on related topics, like ethics and transprofessional collaboration.

The tEACH website
The website is aimed at teachers of communication skills in healthcare. On display are teaching tools that can be used in various teaching situations, assessment tools for communication abilities, tools to use in faculty development and announcement of courses given by tEACH. Also find out Who’s Who in tEACH and get in touch with colleagues active in tEACH, someone with special expertise or someone in your region.

Most of the teaching tools can be accessed by members of EACH only, but even non-members will find material for inspiration and soon more will be open to the public.

So, if you are into teaching communication skills in health care, take a look at the website: www.each.eu and click Teaching.

Collection of teaching tools
tEACH is striving to collect all kinds of teaching material to be used in clinical communication teaching: ranging from simple A6 charts to carry in your pocket to complete curricula for a whole profession. The materials are mainly in English, but tools in other languages, including Scandinavian languages, can be found as well.

tEACH wants tools which have shown to be helpful in teaching communication skills and we encourage the display of tools in different languages. Tools of good quality will be published on the EACH website to be used freely by members of EACH.

A core curriculum for teaching communication skills to Health Care professionals
tEACH wished to develop a broad European consensus on the content of a core curriculum for teaching communication skills to undergraduate students studying to enter any health care profession.

The Health Professions Core Communication Curriculum (HPCCC) describes a total of 61 key learning objectives and thus provides a framework for teachers and organisers who wish to review, design or develop a coherent programme of communication education for the students that they teach.

The three domains proposed by the HPCCC:
- patient communication
- professional awareness/reflection
- teamwork

can be implemented separately or as a whole. The HPCCC has been translated into a number of different languages.

Courses
tEACH offers support and training for trainers and teachers of communication skills in health care across all professional groups - both beginners and more experienced teachers.

tEACH currently offers 4 different courses:
1. What to Teach in Communication Skills Teaching: Skills and Structure
2. How to teach: Experiential Communication Skills Teaching
3. Curriculum Development in Communication Skills Teaching
4. Assessment in Communication Teaching

Each course can be taken separately. Together they provide a comprehensive programme of training.

EACH is an interdisciplinary non-profit organisation which brings together researchers and trainers in the field of communication in healthcare. Its objectives are to facilitate the exchange of ideas and products of teaching and research activities across a network of individuals and institutions in Europe and beyond. EACH is associated with the scientific journal Patient Education and Counseling.