

Debate

'This House believes that Inquiry-driven, open-ended learning is inappropriate for a vocational qualification in the Health Professions'

**Problem-based learning:
*Evangelism triumphs over
common sense***

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Traditional teaching: not perfect, but it worked

Curriculum reform

Why?

- Bristol, Alder Hey
- Need to train more doctors
- Information overload, exam fatigue
- Old system unchanged for ages
- Educationalists need something to do

Action:

- Focus on making doctors really nice people
- Get rid of lectures
- Let students decide what they want to do
(NB pharmacology, anatomy, etc are very boring)
- Make exams really fair

'New curriculum' graduates (oversimplified)

Generally good at:

- **Communication skills**
- **Eye contact**
- **Washing their hands between patients**
- **Some examination techniques**

Maybe not so good at:

- **Basic medical knowledge**
- **Synthesizing information**
- **Taking responsibility for management**
- **Dealing with 'non-core' conditions**

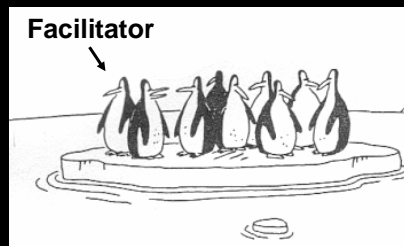
Curriculum reform *didactic or what?*

“Modern educational theory must influence teaching and learning.”

“Communication skills are as important as anatomy.”

“Factual information must be kept to the essential minimum.”

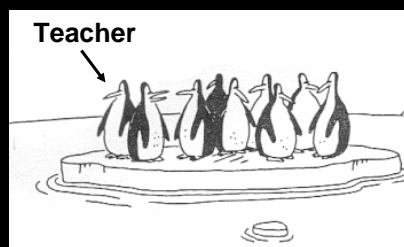
Problem-based learning



- No basics
- No spoon-feeding
- Student-led
- Cooperative
- Trendy
- Feels great!

As used by McMaster!

Whole language ('Look-say')



- No basics
- No spoon-feeding
- Child-led
- Cooperative
- Trendy
- Feels great!

Produces 'fully functional, self-actualizing individuals through collaborative group settings'

As used in California!

New Age examinations

Rigorously fair to the candidate

Most marks for empathy and technique

Detection of pathology not tested

Fragmented: no test of integrative skills

Props include:

- **Actors**
- **Normal children**

... and the silastic scrotum



Tomorrow's Doctor (1993 et seq)

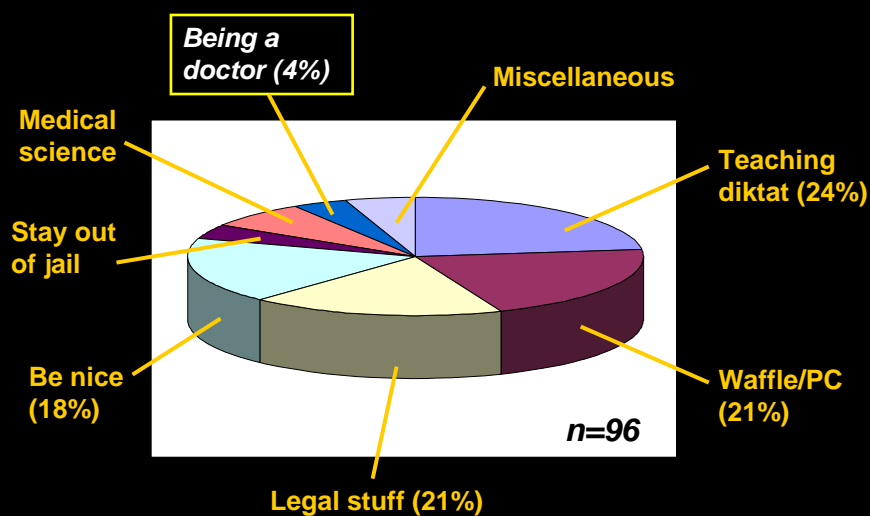
"Ground-breaking" (GMC)

96 items

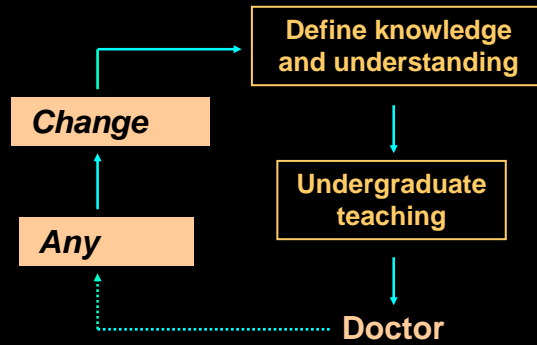
- rambling
- repetitive
- poorly structured
- idiosyncratic priorities
- didactic
- totally uncluttered by evidence

} Plain English Campaign

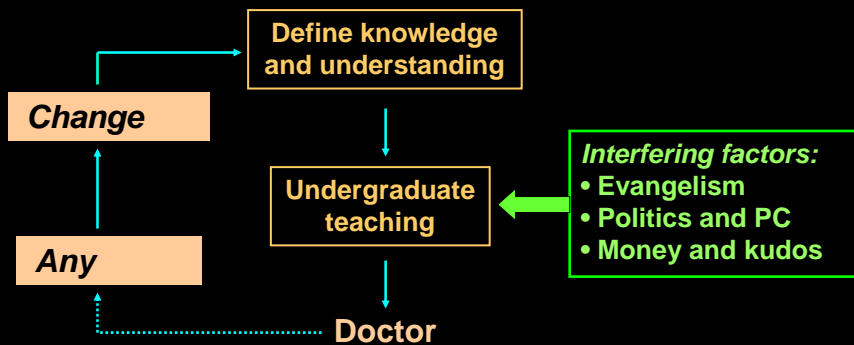
Tomorrow's Doctor: the wish-list



Training doctors: the ideal



Training doctors: the reality



Training for the health-care professions:

If it isn't broken, don't try to fix it