

Poster Title:

A Model of Medical Education that Teaches Doctors to #DareToThinkRare

Author:

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Summary:

Medics4RareDiseases is a UK Registered Charity founded by medics and aimed at medics. The purpose of the charity is to improve the diagnostic journey and the lives of those living with rare diseases through medical education. The diagnostic odyssey continues to be a challenge faced by patients with rare diseases all over the world. A lack of appreciation for the relevance of rare disease in clinical medicine contributes to the diagnostic odyssey. Currently medical professionals across the world are not being taught to #DareToThinkRare and M4RD is changing this.

One medical student recently described to us her extremely limited exposure to genetics during undergraduate training, with no teaching about rare disease as a whole. She explained that at university rare and genetic conditions are considered complex and learning about them “low yield” for exams. How can we expect medical professionals to consider rare diseases when they are not taught to or equipped to?

It is impossible to teach a medical student about every single rare disease however it is possible to teach about ‘the rare disease patient’. Medics4RareDiseases is delivering this type of training by not concentrating on individual disease but rather rare disease as a whole. The focus is on patient experiences that are often very similar despite their different diseases. This method has worked well in half-day training sessions and will soon be available through ‘Rare Disease 101’ - an online, interactive learning platform. ‘Rare Disease 101’ can be applied during medical school or postgraduate training. So that we have a medical profession that will #daretothinkrare.

Please visit www.m4rd.org to see talks from the M4RD annual symposium - The Unusual Suspects 2019 and 2020. And sign up to our newsletter so that you are notified when Rare Disease 101 is released ready for you to use for free!

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Any queries can be directed to Lucy McKay on lucy@m4rd.org