

**Learning and Sharing Points
Medical Education Round
27 Oct 2006 7.30am NUH Auditorium**

"Problem-Based Learning: An Integrated Curriculum"

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**Chairman: Dr Paul O'Brien
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Summary

PBL is a total approach to education. It is both a curriculum design and a cognitive process. The curriculum design consists of carefully selected and designed problems that demand from the learner acquisition of integrated knowledge. The cognitive process uses a systematic approach to resolving problems. There is no doubt that the PBL integrated curriculum is an effective way of learning as it offers several advantages over the traditional model of teaching.

Objectives Of An Integrated Curriculum:

- Effective communication skills
- Capable of team work
- Broad grounded approach to problem solving
- A broad repertoire of theoretical knowledge and skills
- Independent responsibility for learning
- Critical evaluation of literature and evidences
- Sharing information and knowledge with peers

The PBL Process

Step	Activity
1	Identify the Problem
2	Brainstorm
3	Generate Hypotheses & Learning Questions
4	Identify Learning Issues
5	Carry out Evidence Based Research
6	Apply New knowledge to the Problem
7	Reflect and Evaluation

All 7 Steps of the PBL process involves collaboration, communication and cooperation among learners.

Challenges Faced

1. For a PBL integrated curriculum to be successful, it requires interdepartmental teams to work together.
2. Poorly designed problems may not meet the learning objectives.
3. Group conflict, while normal, could take time to resolve.
4. Poor adaptation of the PBL process may hinder its effectiveness