

CONNECTING WITH THE CLINICAL TEACHER

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In his century-old report on the state of medical education in the US and Canada, Abraham Flexner scoffs at the Dean of a medical school who – when asked what he gave his clinical teachers – replied: “Titles!”. While most of today’s medical schools would acknowledge that clinical teachers are their most valuable resource, how good are we at engaging with, supporting, and meeting the professional development needs of this most important group? Clinicians are frequently overworked and under stress, and even though they might enjoy teaching, other demands compete for their time.

This workshop will allow participants to consider what it is that clinical teachers need in order to teach most effectively and efficiently, and will practise techniques for recruiting, encouraging and supporting clinical teachers. Small group discussion, brainstorming and role-plays will distil the key points. At the end of the workshop, participants will have learned strategies from each other that they can implement immediately in their own contexts.