RCSI Library Information Skills Training and Evidence-based Study Programme

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The RCSI Medical Graduate Profile states:

5.7. Demonstrates information literacy skills.
5.7.1. Recognizes the need for information in given situations.
5.7.2. Demonstrates the ability to find, critically evaluate, manage and synthesise new information with existing information to create new understanding.
5.7.3. Demonstrates an understanding of the ethical issues involved in information retrieval and management including the concepts of plagiarism and confidentiality.

Essential to:
- Evidence-Based Healthcare
- Continuing professional Development
- Life-long Learning

By equipping students with these skills early in their careers RCSI is equipping them for life.

**Physiotherapy, 1st year Search skills & Finding the Evidence**

**What?**
Three classes – initial introductory lecture followed by two PubMed workshops

**When?**
Methods of Enquiry (research) module

**How?**
- Students search in groups for the evidence to answer a previously assigned clinical question
- Search for systematic reviews and randomised controlled trials
- Critically evaluate search results
- Identify one relevant fulltext randomised controlled trial, to be critically appraised by the group in the next session
- Use other evidence-based resources to explore the question further

**School of Medicine, Senior Cycle Finding the Evidence**

**What & when?**
One class within the General Practice rotation

**How?**
- Students analyse case studies and define clinical questions
- Use advanced features of PubMed to answer the questions
- Critically evaluate the results
- Use evidence-based filters to refine search
- Use other evidence-based resources to explore the question further
- Provide the answers to the clinical questions

**EBHC Synopses & Sources**

**PubMed**
Diagnosis
Therapy
Prognosis
Clinical Prediction Guides

**DynaMed**
Clinical reference tool for use at point of care
By physicians for physicians

**Clinical Evidence**
Decision support tool
Current state of knowledge & uncertainty about interventions

**Strengths**
- Joint collaboration between faculty and librarians
- Integrated and positioned appropriately within the module
- Content module-specific and aligned to module outcomes
- Case-based approach
- Student feedback shows small groups are most effective and popular

**Challenges**
- Logistical pressures increasing the number of students per group
- Lack of direct assessment of information literacy competencies
- Outcomes in each module required to reinforce information literacy
- Development of understanding that information literacy competencies are a lifelong, professional requirement