What Patients Aren’t Telling Us Because We’re Listening in the Wrong Places: Patients as Teachers, Health Trainees as Filmmakers, and the Video Slam

Presenter: Dan Shapiro, PhD.

Dan Shapiro, Ph.D. is an Arnold P. Gold Foundation Professor of Medical Humanism and the Chair of the Department of Humanities at Penn State College of Medicine. Dr. Shapiro earned his Ph.D in clinical and health psychology at the University of Florida and went on Harvard Medical School where he completed an internship and an endowed post-doctoral fellowship. His writings about the patient experience and physician patient relationships have appeared or been featured in the New York Times, JAMA, Salon.Com, Academic Medicine, the Today Show and he is a regular weekly consultant to the hit television shows “Grey’s Anatomy” and “Private Practice.” He will also appear on-screen as a behavioral science expert in eight episodes of a National Geographic Television program airing in the Spring of 2012. Shapiro has written two books, Moms Marijuana, about his personal cancer experience, (it has now been translated into Dutch, Portuguese, Spanish and Italian) and a second memoir, Delivering Doctor Amelia, which focused on his psychological treatment of a physician. Both books are in wide use at universities and colleges and are required reading at a number of medical schools. He is currently writing a book titled “And In Health” about marital issues when one member of a couple has cancer.

Colleges of Medicine and Allied Health have been historically excellent at teaching medical trainees about patients in crisis; we have been less skilled at teaching students about the day to day struggles of coping with serious chronic illness. As a result, many of our physicians and other health trainees report feeling inadequate at helping patients anticipate and cope with common challenges associated with serious illness. We also fail to learn patient’s most innovative adaptations and as a result, are unable to pass those innovations on to future patients. Moving learning from inpatient and outpatient clinics and into patient’s homes appears to be a promising method for improving health trainee competence. Student made films including surprising patient innovative adaptations will be shown and discussed.

Objectives:
1. Describe the learning value of home visits with patients for medical trainees List the elements of filmmaking that make it an excellent teaching tool for learning about the real struggles facing patients and their families
2. Explain the major lessons patients teach health trainees when given the opportunity

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