“Understanding PBL/EBM and Building Research Partnerships”

A group of Brazilian university professors from the Botucatu Medical School – UNESP* (São Paulo) and the Faculty of Medicine PUCMG- Pontificia Universidade Catolica (Minas Gerais)** visited McMaster University from 4 to 9 of July 2016. The five days of training promoted an expansion of knowledge within innovative methods in medical education, and gave us new insights to research capacity building.

We are grateful to all for the advice, time, effort and most importantly, the demonstration of friendship, all of which made this workshop possible. It was an extraordinary learning experience for all of us.

Aristides Palhares Neto*
Jacqueline Caramori*
Luciana Abbade*
Silke Weber*
Gilmar Reis**

The delegation of Brazilian professors at McMaster University

The visit was planned by Professor Lehana Thabane, Associate Chair of the Department of Clinical Epidemiology & Biostatistics (CE&B). He was a true mentor by helping us better understand Problem Based Learning (PBL) and Evidence Based Medicine (EBM). In addition, he established strategies on how to set up a collaborative environment that will be essential to building capacity.

A STRATEGY OF HIGH LEVEL EXCELLENCE! Professor Thabane, we hope this was another step towards a long-lasting fruitful partnership. Rosemary Oliveira and Ni Jadon, your work has certainly built the base of high performance and success of the team.

Cultivating a Culture of Healthy Collaborations in Research: The Evidence-based Approach

McMaster University
Population Health Research Institute,
Hamilton Health Sciences
We had the opportunity to talk to Dr Rob Whyte, Assistant Dean, Undergraduate Medical Education Program and Dr Karen McAssey, Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics who gave us a very detailed overview of the medical curriculum at Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine at McMaster University, enhancing the actual model “COMPASS curriculum” (concept-oriented; multidisciplinary problem-based; simulations in clerkship; streaming), which focuses on integration and critical analysis, training the students to optimize their learning.

Dr Benicio Frey, Assistant Professor, Psychiatry & Behavioural Neurosciences and Dr Daniel Cordovani, Assistant Professor, Department of Anesthesia shared their experiences in teaching during clinical elective rotations. Dr Cordovani highlighted the important role of Medical Simulation which offers good scope for training of medical students and residents.

Michael Ladouceur, Field Practicum Coordinator, of the Global Health Program presented an overview of Health Science Education with a focus on student centered, interdisciplinary life-long learning.

Dr Geoff Norman, Emeritus Professor, Department of Clinical Epidemiology & Biostatistics presented a review of teaching and learning. He demonstrated that the problem-based method and student directed learning are beyond solving problems as these methods of teaching ensure an important skill in transferring knowledge from one problem to another.

Thus, the students will acquire a habit of remarkable and lasting learning.

Dr Alan Neville, Professor, Associate Dean, Health Professional Education fostered the idea that while initial evaluation of cognitive content showed worse results, alumni had longer retainment of information and a better association for new cognitive skills.

Dr Arshad Ahmad, Associate Vice President, teaching and Learning, Director of the Institute for Innovation & Excellence in Teaching & Learning (MIIETL), gave us a better understanding of how the program supports, conducts, and disseminates a diverse range of high quality research in teaching and learning. He highlighted the integration and partnership of students.
Dr Jason Busse, Assistant Professor, Department of Anesthesia presented a historical overview lecture about evidenced based medicine, and showed how this approach changed interpretation of decision making. He highlighted that EBM is considered to be one of the 15 most important discoveries in the last 150 years.

Dr. John Lavis, Professor, Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics CE&B presented an insight into how evidence based methods moved to evidence-informed health systems and collective problem-solving, sharing the supporting tools for policies in public health.

Dr. Gordon Guyatt, Professor, Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics CE&B Presented the new dimension for evidenced based decision making, the evidence ecosystem, including bedside best evidence specific patient data and shared decision making. The process should be accessible, providing the MAGICapp (making GRADE the irresistible choice).

During two lunch-time meetings, Dr Ann McKibbon, Professor Emeritus, Department of Clinical Epidemiology & Biostatistics CE&B, presented the importance of e-health capacity building and e-learning, while Dr Mike Thompson, Professor, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies (Engineering) presented an overview of student-directed learning applied to non-medical areas, such as engineering.

We had the opportunity to talk to Dr. Teo Koon, Professor, Population Health Institute PHRI, who shared his vast experience in research capacity building, also in various areas other than epidemiological trials.

Dr Iris Mujica and Dr Olive Wahoush, Professors, School of Nursing, presented a comprehensive approach to Research in Global Health including interdisciplinary, transcultural care and the impact on professional practice. To strengthen future common actions in research in primary care, we shared the book “Community based education for the health professions: learning from the Brazilian Experience”. (http://goo.gl/A8nrn2).

We have mutual interest!
“Understanding PBL/EBM and Building Research Partnerships”

Dr Holger Schünemann, Professor, Chair of the Department of Clinical Epidemiology & Biostatistics CE&B, even while on vacation overseas, made the effort to meet with us via skype and talked about building capacity for searching for evidence. He explained the necessity for training, to be able to assess the value of evidence, create and evaluate guidelines and conduct clinical decisions.

Dr. Devereaux, Professor, Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics CE&B emphasized the integration of research during graduation and residency, as this interaction will improve the capacity for decision making and keep the alumni in future epidemiological trials more actively involved.

Dr Luis Braga, Associate Professor, Department of Surgery - Division of Urology, also discussed his experience in clinical research building.

Dr Karum Singh, Assistant Professor, Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences, (Stem Cell and Cancer Research Institute) discussed the advantages, and highlighted the quality of his multi-user and multidisciplinary research laboratories.

Dr Doug Welch, Professor, Acting Associate Vice-President and Dean of Graduate Students assured institutional support for partnerships between the universities. He presented a variety of integration possibilities between researchers from different areas, including joint supervision of PhD programs.