

AEM Education and Training Editor's Pick

Medicine: The Science and the Art

For my January AEM E&T Editors Pick, I chose a brief contribution by Drs. Dorfsman, Hart and Wolfson entitled [Implementation of a Novel Conference Series on Clinical Practice Variations Provides an Opportunity for Constructive Discussion of Faculty Practice Patterns: Do as We Say?...or Do as We Do?](#) My career has been dedicated to medical education and this article really hit home for me. I can recall numerous times in my career (even as recent as last week) when a medical student or resident looked at me perplexed when I asked how he or she arrived at the management plan that had just been presented to me. The medical student or resident would typically say something like, “Dr. X said that was the appropriate way to care for the medical condition that Patient Y presented with just yesterday.” I would then go on to share with the individual a completely different plan of action.

Many of the things we do in our clinical practice do not have strong evidence to support them. There is no doubt that there is some “finesse” or “art” to medicine. I was very excited to read this article because it not only addressed the issue of variations in attending practice—which is often very frustrating to our learners—it also discussed a way to make our weekly conferences more interesting and engaging. I encourage all of you to take a few minutes to read this article and consider implementing this novel educational program into your training programs.