

The Physician as Teacher

Authors:

Neal Whitman, Thomas L. Schwenk

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Whitman Associates, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA, 1997

ISBN:

0-9647117-0-2

Overall rating:

Very good

Strength:

The book is full of figures and interesting citation, it easy to read, concise and each chapter has summary at the end.

Weakness:

lack of depth in some areas, repetition of some ideas all over the book

Audience:

Practicing physicians

The physicians as teacher is a very important and interesting book for those seeking to teach or those having some teaching involvements. The book covers the basic rules and skills of teaching that are really needed by the physicians. Such knowledge will cover the insufficient training of the doctors as teachers. Many examples and figures are extensively used by Whitman and Schwenk to demonstrate and clarify the points they address. Those examples make the reading to be more exciting and less boring.

The book has an extensive discussion on teaching. In part one the chapters (1, 2, 3 & 4), which talks about communication, the authors classified teaching as one term of communication. It is important to mention that the authors were so imaginative when they divided teacher communication style into three important parts. These are attentive silence, cooperative negotiation and persuasive confrontation. Many lessons can be drawn from their discussion of employer-employee relation as well as the parent-child relationship. Honestly speaking the book seems to have wider view in teaching than any other books.

The book consists of two main parts. Part one which was discuss above, deals with teaching as form of communication. The second part, which I feel it is more useful, emphasizes more on specific teaching methods such as lectures, group discussion, teaching rounds, beside teaching and ambulatory teaching. This part is so useful at which instructions are given to the reader on how to build the suitable approach in teaching. The book has is full of demonstrations and supported by very good variable citation.

Above all, the book is sufficient for the beginners who did not have background in teaching. However, advance books may be necessary for doctors having good background in teaching and looking to improve their teaching skills.

Reviewed by:

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