More than an Ice Breaker: Using Art to Build Teams

AUTHOR: James Warpinski, MD
MENTOR: Linda Meurer, MD
Study Question: Can Observing Art Help Rapidly Form Effective Interprofessional Teams?

- Medical teams multidisciplinary
- Some team members may be inhibited from sharing due to different levels of education and training
- Effective teams need every member to contribute
- Art observation helps build teams
Study Design

- Continuous Professional Development-2 session on Care of Older Adults
- Medical and Social Work students in groups
- Faculty:
  - Physicians, nurses and pharmacist
  - Social Work faculty
  - Community members including patients
- Works of art emphasized medical and empathy-related session goals
- Art was curated by local art professor
- Clinical scenarios based on AAMC Geriatric competencies
- Session reflected experience in staffing a patient in a clinic
- Flipped classroom prework on didactic content (Dementia, Delirium, Depression)
Session Timeline

1:00 PM
Welcome

1:10 PM
Team Building/Art observation

1:25 PM
Groups assess scenarios with consultants

2:10 PM
Break

2:40 PM
Group Presentations with discussion

3:00 PM
Group Presentations with discussion

4:00 PM
The Patient’s Voice—Maryl Hitchcock, BS, MS

4:45 PM
Wrap up / Feedback
A three-step approach to a piece of art

- What's going on in this picture?
- What do I see that makes me think that?
- What more can I find or what more do I need to know?

It’s all about posing questions
What's going on in this picture?

What do I see that makes me think that?

What more can I find or what more do I need to know?
Typical Team Activities

1. Forming—Art Observation and discussion
2. Storming—Case studies
3. Performing—Oral Presentations
Art used in forming groups of Medical and Social Work Students

- What's going on in this picture?
- What do I see that makes me think that?
- What more can I find or what more do I need to know?

Now look at the entire work of art
Seeing a wider perspective: What more can you see by looking at the whole picture?

An Old Man and his Grandson
Ghirlandaio, ca 1490
Using Art to Rapidly Form Medical Teams

- Published Studies: 90-270 min of Art Observation
- Our Study: 20 - 25 min of Art Observation
- Similar results with both approaches
Discussing art during the session helped medical and social work students develop teamwork.
Discussing art during the session helped students develop positive opinions of other students.
Art and Tolerance of Uncertainty

Discussing the works of art helped students accept multiple possible meanings.

- A Great Deal
- Quite a lot
- Some
- A Little/not at all
Art and Empathy

Discussing the works of art during the session helped students **observe the feelings of others**.
Getting Help:
Seeing Through Other Eyes

Panel of Consultants Available to Teams
How do we see another person?

Guest speaker at opening of session

Guest speaker talking to students at end of session
Student Comments

- Thoroughly enjoyable
- Amazing way to get acquainted with other’s work
- Forced me to look at details
- Enjoyed working in small groups with Social Work students
- Great to collaborate with med students
- One of my favorite CPD sessions
Getting to Dinner with our Guest Speaker.
My entrepreneurial mindset:

✦ **Curiosity**
Can we rapidly form effective interprofessional teams in medical education?
How can we teach care of older adults without using lectures?

✦ **Connections**
Project included:
- Physicians, nurses and pharmacist
- Social Work students and their faculty
- Community members including patients

✦ **Creating Value**
Respectful teams of Medical students and Social Work students can be rapidly formed using art observation
Project could transform medical education by making interprofessional education effective and enjoyable for students and community partners
Students learn subject content in multiple ways
Where do we go from here?

- Longitudinal work with MSW students
- Select pre-session readings from both Medical and Social Work literature
- Look for ways to use visual art observation in other class sessions

Dinner with our Guest Speaker.
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