



CAME Voice/Voix

Education scholarship: What it is and why it matters to CAME

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CAME is a grass roots organization for the promotion and advancement of excellence in medical education. There are many ways that CAME can be helpful through its webinars and courses, the CAME Voice, and through a range of advocacy initiatives.

CAME undertook a major advocacy effort in 2009 around education scholarship (ES), recognizing the variability in perceptions around ES. We were determined to explore the differences in how Faculties of Medicine recognized ES for merit, awards and promotion and to identify ways to level the playing field across Canada. The CAME working group (led by Queens' Elaine Van Melle) began by reviewing promotion documents and conducting interviews with key informants across Canada. This led to a White Paper¹, multiple presentations at national and international meetings, discussions with Deans of Medicine, and a publication in Medical Education².

The AAMC had previously defined ES as 'any material, product or resource originally developed to fulfill a specific educational purpose that has been successfully peer-reviewed and is subsequently made public through appropriate dissemination for use by others'³. Recognizing that products and materials are neither scholarly or scholarship on their own, we developed our own CAME definition: 'Education Scholarship is an umbrella term which can encompass both research and innovation in health professions education. Quality in education scholarship is attained through work that is: peer-reviewed, publicly disseminated and provides a platform that others can build on'.

Our recommendations stressed the need for a common understanding of education scholarship, the need for institutions to develop metrics and guidelines related to the measurement of ES, help leaders understand ES, develop mentors who can advise faculty members, ensure schools develop and disseminate pathway guidelines for faculty and make explicit how activities related to ES can be incorporated into one's academic work.

We hope that ES will be better understood as a result of this CAME initiative and that there will be more and better ES support available to medical educators across Canada.

References

1. Van Melle E, Curran V, Goldszmidt M, Lieff S, Lockyer J, St-Onge C, "Towards a Common Understanding": Advancing Education Scholarship for Clinical Faculty in Canadian medical Schools, A Position Paper, Canadian Association for Medical Education Advancement of Education Scholarship Working Group. August 2012 <https://www.came-acem.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/CAME-Position-Paper.pdf>
2. Van Melle E, Lockyer J, Curran V, Lieff S, St Onge C, Goldszmidt M. Toward a common understanding: supporting and promoting education scholarship for medical school faculty. Med Educ. 2014 Dec;48(12):1190-200.
3. AAMC MedEd portal, Education Scholarship Guides, 2013 https://www.mededportal.org/download/190392/data/educational_scholarship_guide.pdf