What’s Up?

The 2018/19 academic year is well underway. The CBD office is busy reviewing your feedback to date, developing requested resources, making program adjustments, planning for the remainder of this year and looking forward to next year. Several CBD Committees have begun meeting and we appreciate the time and effort being put forth by residents, program administrators and faculty!

The Didactic Curriculum Committee is hard at work mapping the current post graduate curriculum from PGY1 through PGY5 which involves a thorough review of all the didactic lesson plans, lecture slides and evaluations. The Curriculum Design Committee is reviewing best practices and current research in curriculum redesign and is developing some recommendations for the curriculum renewal. The Program Evaluation Committee has begun the task of identifying the methods and means of obtaining ongoing feedback from all stakeholders and the Learner Experience Committee recently launched and is focussed squarely on the resident experience at all levels. There is a lot of great work going on as we continue this CBD adventure!

We have received several questions over the past 4 weeks, since our last issue of the CBD Newsletter. To ensure that answers to these questions are broadly available to residents, supervisors and coaches, we have prepared an FAQ page on our website. Please have a look!

If you have a question we can add, please send it to cbd.psych@utoronto.ca

Supervisors & Coaches interested in the basics of competency based education should check out this workshop offered by U of T’s Centre for Faculty Development. The workshop is a ‘starting off point’ for health professions’ educators wanting to build their foundational knowledge and skills about competency based education (CBE). It will be of interest to a diverse multi-professional group, including clinicians, clinician-teachers/ educators, and administrators across the health professions.

PGY1 CBD Resident, Cristina Balaita, kindly shared her thoughts on the EPA experience, “As a first year resident, I’ve found the opportunity to be observed doing assessments and to receive immediate feedback very helpful.”
Why EPAs?

EPA stands for “entrustable professional activity.” This is an essential task of our discipline that an individual can be trusted to perform independently in a given context. It is observable, measureable and used for assessment. It answers the question: “What can I safely delegate?”

Residents have access to an EPA tool that is being used to provide more frequent, in the moment, low stakes assessments of their competencies, which will be used to help them build their own learning plans.

Wondering about the benefits of EPAs, visit this link out of Queens University and select video 1. And please check out our EPA Myth Buster!

A Message from Sarah Colman

Allow me to formally introduce myself as your Competency by Design Lead for the Department of Psychiatry. I am humbled to be entrusted with this monumental task. We are so thankful to our PGY 1 residents and PGY 2 pilot residents, our supervisors and our administrators for their open-mindedness, patience and willingness to give feedback. Without these traits, we would not be able to move forward.

This is our second official Competency by Design newsletter, which is one of our many communication efforts as we transition to this new framework. If you missed the first one, you can access it here. In each newsletter, we will be choosing one element of CBD to review, as well as providing updates from the field and links to other communication efforts and resources.

Finally, our department is using the Royal College mandated shift to Competency Based Medical Education as an opportunity to undertake a long overdue curricular renewal. Tremendous thanks is owed to so many of you who are volunteering your time to our various committees. It is heartening to see the passion and dedication within the department. I would also like to publicly thank Kristen Sharpe, our project manager, Linda Wong, for her dedication in managing the didactic curriculum review and, Sandra Caswell, for her administrative support as we begin to move this mountain.

I can’t say it enough – please reach out if you have questions, feedback to offer or run into roadblocks. This is an iterative process. But what we don’t know we can’t improve.

Exciting Times,

Sarah Colman
Competency By Design Lead, Department of Psychiatry, University of Toronto

EPA Progress

At the end of August, 138 EPAs were completed for the 2018/19 academic year!
- Johny Bozdarov is the PGY1 CBD Resident with the most EPAs entered.
- Brett Jones is the PGY2 Pilot CBD Resident with the most EPAs entered.
- Isabel Martin & Ben Rosen are tied as Supervisors who have participated in completion of the most EPAs.

Every month, the Residents and Supervisor with the most completed EPAs receive a Tim Horton’s Gift Card!