

A Handbook for Medical Teachers

David Newble BSc(Hons), MBChB, MD, FRACP, DipEd
University of Sheffield, UK

Robert Cannon, MA(Hons), MEdAdmin, DipTertEd
The University of Adelaide, South Australia

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Reviewed by Othelia Pryor, Ph.D.
Michigan State University

A Handbook for Medical Teachers was originally published to provide resources for medical educators desiring a basic perspective into educational principles and applications. Although this book was penned as a reference for medical educators, this well organized 4th edition would be of benefit to educators from various disciplines. The text applies a broad brush stroke to topics pertinent to educators in their quest to impart knowledge to the students for which they are responsible.

A Handbook for Medical Teachers includes application chapters on, helping students learn, teaching techniques for large, small and problem-based learning environments, and the unique methods useful for interacting with students in practical and clinical learning situations. Professional development and educational enrichment topics include chapters on course organization and planning, the purpose of assessment, documenting your teaching effectiveness and presentation development. Newble and Cannon also include the obligatory chapter on the enhancements technology brings to the realm of teaching and learning. Appendix One entitled, "Where To Find Out More About Medical Education" provides journal, medical association and web site information useful for individuals in both Europe and the United States.

Newble and Cannon begin each chapter with an introduction that sets forth the major tenets of the topic. The authors then document the theoretical underpinnings of the aforementioned principles and its importance to the teaching of students. These comprehensive general topic discussions are enhanced by reference recommendations for individuals requiring more in-depth knowledge.

Newble and Cannon's treatment of the technology chapter, "Preparing Learning and Teaching Materials Using Technology", could have been strengthened by inclusion of more of the current technological methods of interest to the teaching profession. However, the reference recommendations add depth and assist in the shortcoming of this particular chapter.

A Handbook for Medical Teachers by David Newble and Robert Cannon is a well-written, easy to read, informational source for new initiates into the field of medical education. One wishing to examine a general educational topic could easily gain understanding of the underlying principles involved. The inclusion of additional references provides an in-depth treatment of the topics presented. I would recommend *A Handbook for Medical Teachers* to those in the field of medical education.