



10th International Clinical Skills Conference 2025

Sunday May 18th – Wednesday May 21st, 2025

“Past, Present and Future”

Professor Jeremy Howick -Keynote Workshop Summary

Title: Creating an empathic hidden curriculum in your institution

No matter how good empathy teaching is, it will have a limited effect if the hidden curriculum mitigates against empathy. The hidden curriculum exists within medical and other healthcare professional training, as well as in the professional setting. It includes an undue focus on the biomedical model of disease (and insufficient emphasis on the biopsychosocial model), unempathic role models, and poorly managed stress.

Drawing on the successful introduction of interventions that generate an empathic hidden curriculum at the University of Leicester Medical School,¹ this workshop will provide healthcare practitioners, educators, and leaders with a deep understanding of the hidden curriculum's effect on empathy, and them with practical strategies to foster an empathy-generating hidden curriculum.

Participants will:

- Identify elements of the hidden curriculum in their setting that dampen medical student or healthcare professional empathy
- Explore interventions that would generate an empathic hidden curriculum
- Generate an actionable plan to start generating an empathic hidden curriculum in their setting

Designed for those passionate about driving change, this workshop will provide valuable insights and tools for transforming healthcare education into more empathetic and supportive environments for both staff and patients.

Recommended pre-reading for the workshop

1. Howick J, Slavin D, Carr S, et al. Towards an empathic hidden curriculum in medical school: A roadmap. *J Eval Clin Pract* 2024 doi: 10.1111/jep.13966 [published Online First: 20240208]

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