Workshop 4: Writing Better Multiple Choice Questions: A Hands-on Workshop

Description

In this interactive workshop, we will review the “anatomy” of the multiple-choice question, highlight technical flaws that introduce irrelevant difficulty, and contrast questions that assess fact recall versus knowledge application. Participants will have the opportunity to analyze, edit, and share their revised sample questions.

Learning Objectives:

Write effective one-best-answer multiple choice questions that…
- Avoid flaws that introduce irrelevant difficulty
- Avoid advantage to “testwise” examinees
- Assess application of knowledge rather than recall of fact

David Brissette, MMSc., PA-C is an Assistant Professor and serves as the Associate Program Director and Director of Admissions at the Yale Physician Associate Program. In his role at the Program, David provides oversight and management of the PA curriculum to include assessment of students’ clinical skills and summative assessments. David provides support to the faculty at the PA Program on exam item writing and analysis. He teaches history taking, physical examination, clinical reasoning to PA students and is a clinical coach for first year medical, nursing and PA students in the Interprofessional Longitudinal Clinical Experience (ILCE). David also practices clinically on the Hospitalist Service at Yale New Haven Hospital. David served on the Exam Material Development Committee for the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) for both the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE) and the Physician Assistant National Recertifying Exam (PANRE) from 2010-2016.

Michael Green, MD, ScM, is Professor of Medicine and Associate Director for Student Assessment in the Teaching and Learning Center at Yale School of Medicine. He oversees assessment of students’ competence, supports the curriculum, and represents YSM on matters of assessment to local, regional, and national stakeholders. He also teaches in the Yale Masters of Medical Education program. Dr. Green serves on the executive committee for the AAMC Entrustable Professional Activities Pilot and leads the Yale EPA team. He has published widely and spoken nationally in the areas of evidence-based practice, physicians’ information needs, and assessment of clinical competence. Dr. Green received the regional and national awards for scholarship in medical education from the Society of General Internal Medicine and was selected as a Kimball Scholar at the American Board of Internal Medicine. Clinically, Dr. Green supervises residents in the HIV Medicine Track in the Yale Primary Care Program.

Peter Takizawa, PhD, is an Assistant Professor and Director of Medical Studies in the Department of Cell Biology. He serves as Co-director of Master Courses and Leader of the Scientific Foundations Master Course. He actively engages in medical student education and is published in the areas of integration of basic science and medical curricula. As an Associate for
Educator Development in the Teaching and Learning Center, he consults with faculty and provides guidance on the organization of their lecture content and the appropriate use of slides.