

Evidence-Based Education VS Wisdom-Based Education

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“Wisdom is not a product of schooling but of the lifelong attempt to acquire it.”

Einstein

The only constancy is change

“If we’re treating people the same way we did 30 years ago, then we’re probably not treating them right.” (Gerstein)

EBM in Context

Clinical Reasoning (Critical Thinking)

=

best available evidence

+

personal experience

+

patient input

Experience and Practice

“What makes a practice a practice rather than a method is precisely the fact that it is based upon acquired and accumulated experience. The acquisition of discernment, judgment, and insight is based not so much upon what comes to us in a given experience but upon what comes to us by involvement and participation in a whole number of experiences. ... Experience of this order affords a wisdom.” (Davey, 2006)

Therefore:

- We need education that provides many appropriate experiences.
- Learners need to reflect on those experiences.
- Learners need guidance on performance and reflection.
- Learners need training but they need education more.

Training vs. Education

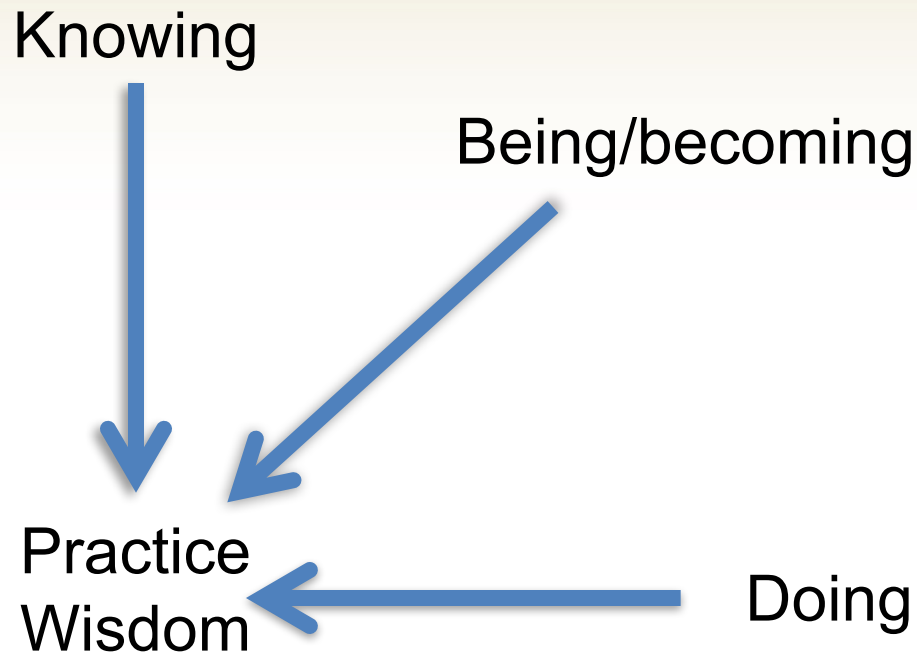
Training

Inculcate in the learner the technical ability to do X and follow the rules (a competency-based approach.)

Education

Enable the learner to do X and develop the abilities of doing, thinking, knowing and critiquing the doing of X. (This means learners need reflection and mentoring.)

We need a curriculum for Developing Wisdom



Being (and Becoming)

- Ethicality
- Professionalism
- Criticality (i.e. Values and attitudes)
- Reflection
- Caring

We can talk about being/becoming and
wisdom

e.g. Neo-Aristotelianism:

- Episteme
- Techne
- **Phronesis/Praxis**

Phronesis and Praxis

Phronesis is:

The disposition to act wisely in conditions of uncertainty. There is a focus on:

- Particular vs. universal
- Local vs. general
- Timely vs. eternal
- Concrete vs. abstract

Phronesis and Praxis

Praxis depends on phronesis and is:

Morally committed and morally informed practice. It is critical thinking in action. It is wise practice.

Take Home Message

We need more complex views of professional education (and practice) and to go beyond simplistic transmission and competency models. We need to think through all three curriculum axes and provide rich educational experiences so that students (and educators) can develop practice wisdom.