

Art of Doctoring Summary Notes Group 1 3/2/04

We focused on discussing and refining students' personal projects. A summarized the basic aspects of doing the project. We then worked with her to develop her focus: "judgmentalness." She operationalized this in terms of language. B suggested a different approach based on mental attitude, that might influence the language that "emerges." C empathized with the tendency to become judgmental, especially on the ER clerkship. Her comment led to a discussion of negative and positive role-models as a way to address judgmentalness. We also discussed other interventions, such as increasing awareness and rehearsing appropriate language.

B discussed her project, reconciling the patient's agenda with the doctor's agenda. She noticed that often she became distracted or impatient when patients discussed issues that seemed tangential to the differential diagnosis or to treatment. She wanted to develop the ability to be more present in listening to the patient and not so quick to divert the interview back to her agenda.

D presented her project on playfulness, which included such behaviors as interacting informally with pediatric patients, playing games, and making jokes. So far she felt she had not been successful in implementing any playful behaviors. We again discussed interventions that might increase the likelihood of engaging in low frequency behaviors, such as setting a specific goal.

E emphasized the importance of identifying specific, observable behaviors, defining terms such as "more of" "less of," setting measurable goals, and monitoring on a daily basis. G reinforced the idea of monitoring, pointing out it provides a more objective measure of progress.

F wanted to do a "caring" project. He discussed giving 3rd year students on the IM clerkship \$5 to do something nice for a patient, and having them write up the results. He wanted to have more "fun" with patients.

The remainder of the session was devoted to a discussion of an article by Patch Adams brought in by F. To F, the article was inspiring, and a model of what was important in medicine. To most students, the author seemed "naïve" and his suggestions "impractical" or "absurd." E expressed the concern that Adams is "egomaniacal." He noted that his views of medicine bore little relationship to the real world, and ran the risk of making "real doctors" feel guilty. G suggested the group think about the concepts in the article metaphorically rather than literally. In particular, she invited the group to think about how the health care system encourages patients to feel they "owe something," rather than that they "belong" to the system that cares for them. We also examined the provocative phrase regarding physicians and patients "falling in love with each other," and explored whether it might have useful meanings for clinical practice.