

PEDS REFLECTION SESSION 6/26/16

Cecelia Canales

Hi Cecelia, your “craft” project of making “Isolation Man” was both creative and empathic. Adopting the child’s point of view to understand a bit better what it is like to be in isolation and have all these anonymous masks/gowns/gloves hovering over you was truly sensitive. “Isolation Man” looked rather cold and mechanistic, even intimidating. Your project grasped how scary and sad it is for a kid in isolation. Your project also generated a valuable class discussion of how to counteract this unintended but very real effect. If you remember the humanity of both yourself and your patient, as you so clearly did, it is more likely you can mitigate the negative effects of much of what we do in medicine. Best, Dr. Shapiro

Jeff Yu

Dear Jeff, thanks for an informative overview of autism spectrum disorders. You thoroughly covered definition, etiology, pathogenesis, as well as tackling the scientifically thoroughly debunked but still influential belief in a relationship between autism and vaccines. Your sections on screening tests and differential were quite complete. You also did an excellent job of presenting both behavioral and pharmacological treatments. As we discussed, autism is a devastating disease for parents, who need support and guidance. Luckily, as you pointed out, there are now many more resources available than previously. Also, as we discussed, while the medical community considers autism spectrum disorders to be evidence of pathology, many “neuroatypical” individuals see themselves as simply different. This perspective is worth understanding (even if it is not agreed with) because it provides an empathic insight into the world seen through eyes on the autism spectrum. Thank you for a very educational presentation, Dr. Shapiro

Faraz Khan

Faraz, your drawing of the scary Dinosaur-Doctor was really inspired. As we discussed in class, sometimes a picture really is worth a thousand words. Although some may shrug off advice to avoid arrogance or be compassionate, few will want to transform into a dinosaur doctor. Its sharp teeth, savage claws, and egoically swelled head were humorous but unattractive images that your classmates would certainly want to circumvent. You effectively conveyed just how intimidating, even frightening, physicians can appear. The subsequent discussion emphasizing ways of “counteracting” such perceptions planted valuable seeds in the minds of your classmates. Thank you for this creative project. Dr. Shapiro

Kala Ghooray, Austin Kwong

Kala and Austin, thank you for your informative pamphlet on asthma. It concisely consolidated a great deal of important information about this condition into one easy to read source. You did an excellent job of defining the disease, its causes, classifications, and treatments. The sections on how to use inhalers, spacers, and peak-flow meters seemed especially useful to me because of their step-by-

step breakdown. The criteria for recognizing good control were also very helpful because of their behavioral specificity. These are all things that a parent could easily determine. I agree that parents would benefit from having access to this educational material, which summarizes much of what they've heard in understandable, clear language. Having multiple methods of education are essential in helping parents and patients understand the intricacies of managing chronic conditions. Thank you, Dr. Shapiro

Steven Carter

Hi Steven, thank you for bringing your classmates' attention to the crucial issue of water safety. As you pointed out so poignantly, these are all avoidable deaths or near-deaths with often devastating sequelae. The pamphlet cover was good – the title was sobering, but the picture was cute, so I can imagine parents opening it to read more. You made many excellent observations about both ocean and pool safety. In addition, drawing on your own experiences as a life guard personalized your message. In discussing this topic with parents, by sharing the source of your passion for this topic, you will be very effective in commanding parents' attention. You were not simply "informing" us today, you were speaking from the heart as someone who has seen many close calls, and a few dire consequences. This made for a very compelling presentation. Thank you. Dr. Shapiro