Future of Medical Education - A U.S. Perspective

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• Abstract:

Medical Education is undergoing significant changes in the United States. This has been necessitated by the radical changes taking place in U.S. Healthcare.

Interprofessional Education: In the era of new healthcare physicians are no longer expected to act as solo practitioners but as part of a healthcare team that also consists of Nurse, Pharmacists, etc. This requires that the new physicians be trained in this culture right from their initial training. Interprofessional collaborative practice is key to the safe, high quality, accessible, patient-centered care. Achieving that vision for the future requires the continuous development of interprofessional competencies by health professions students as part of the learning process, so that they enter the workforce ready to practice effective teamwork and team-based care.

Fig- AAMC.

Technology: Technology has made information available to all students and so now the question is not about just delivery of information but about training the students to use that information appropriately to develop their skills as a physician. To use this available information for improvement of patient care.

From Lectures to Small Groups and Simulation Labs: We will need to prepare students to work in the Hospitals and clinics of the future. This will require new methods of medical education.
Population Health: The coming generation of physicians will practice in the era of population health. They will need to learn about not just treating diseases but about patient self-management programs and postacute care. They will need to be proficient about the economics of healthcare.