

## **P-839 - HOW WOULD YOU HAVE CHOSEN TO STUDY PSYCHIATRY? TRADITIONAL DIDACTIC VERSUS INTERACTIVE EDUCATION - A JOURNEY FROM MODENA TO NORWICH**

L.Spattini<sup>1</sup>, S.Ferrari<sup>1</sup>, J.Beezhold<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Modena, Italy, <sup>2</sup>Central Cluster Acute Service, Norfolk and Waveney Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust, <sup>3</sup>University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK

**Introduction:** There is a little of awareness about the existence of different methods for teaching undergraduate psychiatry in European countries.

**Aims and objectives:** To compare two methods of teaching psychiatry through a medical student's eyes during a student exchange.

**Methods:** Comparison of personal experience with traditional education at Modena (Modena University, Italy) and experience with Problem Based Learning (PBL) classes and didactic teaching in Norwich (UEA - Norwich,UK).

**Results:** Group size- The traditional education system prefers lectures: one professor usually teaches more than 100 students. The PBL model assigns one tutor per group of 10 students. Intensity of work during the year - The traditional education system requires efforts to be concentrated on exams since clinical sessions and lessons can be attended passively. The PBL course requires that each student produce written work and teach this to the other group members weekly. Skill development- Facing comprehensive oral exams forces students in traditional education to focus learning sources and time. The PBL approach enhances debating abilities and improves skills in team working.

Professors' role- Traditional education professors are usually highly qualified in their subject. PBL professors do not necessarily have to be specialists in the subject because their role is mostly as supervisors of the peer-group learning process.

**Conclusion:** Although at the moment there is no evidence that interactive education methods are more effective in changing doctors' performance it is undeniable that PBL based courses offers more experience in teamwork and in working with a wide range of different colleagues.