

CEMESTR

Community Engaged Medical Education: Systematic and Thematic Reviews

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Number 2

June 2013

Progress Report

First off I'd like to extend a big thank you to all of our CEMESTR reviewers for your work so far. You've got us off to a great start with 92 reviews completed for 53 papers as of 7th June. For those who are not able to complete their allotted reviews please let us know ASAP so we can reallocate the items.

We've been diligently working on a second more robust literature search over the last few months with the excellent help of Patty Fink and Jen Dumond at the NOSM Health Sciences Library. Having searched Medline, CINAHL, Web of Science and ERIC with a range of search terms we finally saturated the number of items that we consider potentially relevant to the CEMESTR project at just under 330. These are currently being added to the CEMESTR system.

For those of you with good math this would mean that roughly speaking we've completed about 10% of the reviews we need – in fact we are actually a little bit further on than this suggests. The initial approach was to have each item reviewed four times – twice using the outcomes review lens and twice using the realist lens. A significant number of the items we are now adding to the database are not empirical in nature and we will only be seeking realist review for those. The up side is that the outcomes arm of the study may be completed sooner than had been anticipated. The down side (if I should call it that) is that we will need another 600 or so realist reviews to complete the study.

To that end we are still seeking to recruit realist reviewers for the study. If you are an outcomes reviewer for CEMESTR (questions that include Kirkpatrick levels) and would also like to undertake some realist reviews then contact Laurel (logorman@nosm.ca) or myself (rachel.ellaway@nosm.ca) and we will be delighted to help you to help us. Similarly if you have colleagues who you think might be interested in becoming CEMESTR realist reviewers then please send us their details. Our goal is to have the great majority of the reviews completed by the end of October.

About CEMESTR

As a reminder of why we're doing what we're doing: the Community Engaged Medical Education: Systematic Thematic Reviews (CEMESTR) project is conducting a rigorous systematic review of how different relationships between medical education programs and communities impact on the outcomes of such interactions. More specifically, our systematic review question is: "How do different relationships between medical education programs and communities impact educational and health outcomes?"

We are conducting a two arm systematic review. The 'Outcomes' arm poses standard questions regarding the quality of the evidence and its relevance to the study question. The 'Realist' arm is more concerned with the pragmatics of 'what works for whom and in what context'.

A rolling synthesis will combine and critique both reviews to build a single integrated evidence-based model of the impact and efficacy of community-engaged medical education.

Online Review System Update

We've made a number of changes to the review system (<http://pine.nosm.ca/ceustr/>) based on the feedback you've given us over the last few months:

1. You can now start a review and save it partway for later completion. Just check the 'incomplete' button on the review form to do this. We would just ask that if you do start a review that you do go on to complete it.
2. You can now view all of your reviews. We hope this will allow you to consider how your understanding changes over time as you complete your reviews.
3. We've been going through and fixing links or replacing links with on-site PDF copies to make sure you can easily access the items you are reviewing.

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If you have any other suggestions for how we can improve the review process please send them to Laurel or myself as we're keen to make this as smooth and intuitive a process as we can manage.

Introducing Laurel O'Gorman

We hired Laurel in February of this year as the Research Assistant for the CEMESTR Project. Laurel holds a Master of Arts in sociology from Laurentian University's Applied Social Research Program where she studied the effects of social policy on connections between education, work, poverty and health. Prior to taking this position, Laurel has worked as a researcher in public health and in social policy.

Over the past few months, Laurel has been assisting with the literature review and conducting a grey literature review. She has worked with Rachel to narrow our search from more than 2,750 to a much more manageable 330 articles, which she is locating, compiling on the website, and allocating for review. She has also been in touch with reviewers about allocations, additional resources, questions and concerns.

BEME

The Best Evidence Medical Education (BEME) Collaboration is an international group of individuals, universities and professional organizations committed to the development of evidence informed education in the medical and health professions (www.bemecollaboration.org).

We applied to have CEMESTR registered as a BEME systematic review in the fall of 2012 and after a rigorous peer-review process CEMESTR is now registered as a BEME review. For more information see: www.bemecollaboration.org

We will now be able to publish outputs from the project through BEME channels. To this end we will be presenting a project update at the BEME session at the AMEE meeting in Prague in August.



CEMESTR is a
BEME registered review

CIHLC

CEMESTR is receiving significant funding from the Canadian Interprofessional Health Leadership Collaborative (CIHLC), which is developing, implementing, evaluating and disseminating an evidence-based collaborative leadership education program. The CIHLC curriculum builds on community engagement principles, informed by the CEMESTR project, and aims to build capacity for health system change in order to transform education and health. We would like to thank the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care for their support of the CEMESTR project along with local project leads David Marsh and Sue Berry.

Next Steps

We hope you will continue to help us with the CEMESTR study and we are tremendously grateful for any and all support you can give to the project either as a reviewer or in some other capacity. Please contact Laurel (logorman@nosm.ca) or myself (rachel.ellaway@nosm.ca) if there's anything we can do to help you to continue helping us. Note that although I am on sabbatical from 1st July (and you may get notices to that effect) my work on CEMESTR continues unchecked.

We hope you have a great and CEMESTR review-filled summer!

Rachel Ellaway, CEMESTR Principal Investigator
Laurel O'Gorman, CEMESTR Research Assistant
Northern Ontario School of Medicine, Sudbury,
Ontario, Canada – 7th June 2013

Call for Realist Reviewers

CEMESTR is looking for volunteers with experience and interest in community-based, community-oriented or community-engaged medical education to act as realist reviewers. This involves reading and reviewing papers and articles based on what works for whom and in what context. Please contact logorman@nosm.ca or rachel.ellaway@nosm.ca to sign up or to find out more about CEMESTR.