The Freiburg Competence Center for Evaluation of Teaching in Medicine, Baden-Württemberg

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Background

The Freiburg Competence Center for Evaluation of Teaching in Medicine (founded 2003) aligned in 2007 with the four Baden-Württemberg Centers of Competence to establish the Network Teaching in Medicine. All centers were promoted with public funds. Aim of the Network is ongoing development of medical education. The specific assignment of the Freiburg Centre is to offer comprehensive and effective evaluation in medical education.

Work

Key activities of the Freiburg Centre are:
- Course evaluation
- Evaluation of teaching environment
- Graduate surveys
- Research projects

Course evaluation:
Since the latest edition of the Medical Licensure Act (Approbationsordnung für Ärzte, 2002) it is mandatory to evaluate all teaching activities. The federal law for universities requires the participation of students. In order to improve course evaluation the Freiburg Center and the network partners are working on guidelines and algorithms.

Evaluation of teaching environment:
The teaching environment is surveyed continuously. By now we have e.g. data about students’ life- and course-situation as well as about special topics like library facilities, working environment or skills-lab offering.

Graduate surveys:
Since 2008 we conducted 3 graduate surveys in cooperation with the International Center for Higher Education Research (INCHER – Kassel). In 2009 all medical faculties from Baden-Württemberg participated. 514 graduates responded (response rate = 42%). We gained important insight concerning medical study, career entry and employment.

Research projects:
A central project of the Freiburg Center is to assess medical competencies. We developed the Freiburg Questionnaire to Assess Competencies in Medicine (FKM). The questionnaire represents nine domains that correspond to the CanMEDS roles. The reliability and validity of the questionnaire was tested. The FKM might be used as a screening tool to identify weaknesses in the medical education curriculum.

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