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**Medical Humanities,  
Professionalism,  
Communication, &  
Competency**

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# Medical Humanities

## Interdisciplinary Field

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- Humanities (literature, philosophy, ethics, history and religion);
- Social Science (anthropology, cultural studies, psychology, sociology);
- The arts (literature, theater, film, and visual arts); and
- Their application to medical education and practice.

# Humanist

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- Umanista – 15<sup>th</sup> Century Italian Term
- Teacher or Scholar of Classical Greek and Latin literature and ethical philosophy.
- The *umanista* subjects of study include: grammar, rhetoric, poetry, moral philosophy, and history.
- The humanist is trained to speak well and write.

# Humanism

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- Human concerns, dignity, rationality and capability
  - Three philosophical categories\*:
    1. ***religious*** humanism
    2. ***secular*** humanism
    3. ***life stance*** – moderate approach
- \*All three categories reject deference to supernatural beliefs.

# Humanism

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- ***Humanism*** denotes a life stance which upholds:
  - Ethics, justice, & scientific reason, and
  - Rejects pseudoscience, superstition and supernaturalism.
- 1877 - Felix Adler – founded “Ethical Culture” in U.S. (Ethical Humanism)

# Terms

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- ***American Humanist Association*** – 1941
- ***International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU)*** – 40 countries
- Educational Humanism
- Medical Humanities
- Healing Authority
- Physician Professionalism
- Physician Competence

# Guide to Good Medical Practice - USA

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- “Guidelines” for Practicing U.S. Physicians. It States:
  - “... **competence** means being qualified in the specific range of skill, knowledge, and ability to perform in a defined role.”
  - “... a **good** physician will strive to demonstrate substantial adherence to these competencies.”

# Competence of Board-Certified Physician Expert Witness at Law

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- Legal capacity or qualification based on meeting certain minimum requirements of age, soundness of mind, citizenship, scientific training, expertise and certification by a nationally recognized certifying organization as “board certified” specialist in a particular medical or surgical specialty.

# Physician Competence - Medical

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- Personal Ability
- Behavioral Construct
- Terminal Performance
- **NOT** Learning Objectives (desired intent or outcome of instruction)
- **NOT** merely cognitive expertise, i.e. ability to answer knowledge questions on a secure exam

# Specialty Board Certification, Physician competencies: Two types

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1. **Knowledge.** A "knowledge competency" can be measured by an objective test or question.
2. **Skill/Behavior.** A Skill/Behavior must be demonstrated or observed.

Medical educators consider competency in terms of ***observable performance***.

# Competency-Based Medical Education

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- 19<sup>th</sup> Century – For-Profit Proprietary Medical Schools
- 1910 – Flexner Report
- 1970s - New approach to medical education that was organized by competencies instead of traditional disciplines
- Carraccio: Competence & Competency

# 1999 – IOM – To Err is Human

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Types of medical errors included:

1. **Diagnostic Errors**
2. **Treatment Errors**
3. **Preventive Errors**
4. **Other Errors**

# 2003 – IOM: Health Professions Education: A Bridge to Quality

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- Called current medical education system “inadequate”
- Called for restructuring clinical education
- Develop & maintain core competencies to include: delivering patient-centered care, working as part of interdisciplinary teams, practicing evidence-based medicine, focusing on quality improvement and using information technology.

# Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education

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## Resident competency in six areas:

1. Patient care;
2. Medical knowledge;
3. Practice-based learning and improvement;
4. Interpersonal and communication skills;
5. Professionalism, and
6. Systems-based practice.

# ACGME provides an Online Instructional Toolkit

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- “Teaching From a Competency Perspective: An Instructional Toolbox for Graduate Medical Education”.
- The Toolkit is available at: <http://www.acgme.org/outcome/instrmod/instrModHome.asp>

# The ACGME provides additional resources:

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- Education Resources for Medical Professionalism, Practice-Based Learning, and Interpersonal and Communication Skills.
- Available at:  
<http://www.acgme.org/outcome/implementation/impHome.asp>

# ACGME Toolkit of Assessment

## Methods:

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- 2000\_ACGME&ABMS\_<http://www.acgme.org/Outcome/assess/Toolbox.pdf>
- 2004\_[http://www.acgme.org/outcome/implementation/Profm\\_resource.pdf](http://www.acgme.org/outcome/implementation/Profm_resource.pdf)
- 2005\_[http://www.acgme.org/outcome/implementation/complete\\_PBLIBooklet.pdf](http://www.acgme.org/outcome/implementation/complete_PBLIBooklet.pdf)
- 2005\_<http://www.acgme.org/outcome/implementation/interperComSkills.pdf>
- 2008\_<http://www.acgme.org/outcome/>

# ACGME also provides Power Point Slides and Facilitator Manuals:

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- Educating Physicians for the 21st Century,” is a series of five PowerPoint presentations with a Facilitator’s Manual. It is a new educational resource from the Research and Education Department.
- Available at: [Educating Physicians for the 21st Century - Introduction \(web-based learning module\)](#)

# Competency-Based Medical Education in Other Countries

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- Canada: developed a Canadian-centric CanMEDS framework of essential physician competencies that include several physician “roles”;
- United Kingdom: General Medical Council issued a recommendation entitled, *Tomorrow’s Doctors: Recommendations on Undergraduate Medical Education*;
- International: MedBiquitous organization has established a Competency Working Group

# Assessment of Competency in Medical School

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- ***Multiple-choice examinations*** and practical exams to evaluate student knowledge.
- ***Global clinical ratings***
- ***Objective structured clinical exam*** (OSCE)
- ***National Board of Medical Examiners - United States Medical Licensure Exams*** (USMLE)

# Competency of Physicians

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- Competency of Residents
- Competency of Practicing Physicians - Maintenance of Certification
- Core Competency of a Medical Specialty

# Legal Claim to being a “Board Certified” Professional

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- *Peel v. Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Committee of Illinois*, 110 S.Ct. 2281 (1990)
  1. Claim itself is true
  2. Certification factual and verifiable
  3. Certification available to all professionals
  4. Certification claim does not suggest any greater degree of professional qualification than reasonably may be inferred.

# Specialty Board Certification, Credentialing & Performance

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- 2008, Kocher et al
- 2009, Freed et al
- 2009, Dunham, Singer & Freed
- 2009, Freed, Dunham and Singer

# What Should A Physician Do To Maintain Competency?

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- 2004, Madewell – Lifelong Learning
- 2009, Bordage et al – CME
- Gender Differences in Physician Competence
- Physician Specialty and Malpractice Rates
- Physicians Disciplined by State Medical Board

# Other Considerations

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- 2000, Weycker and Jensen – Residency Training
- Role of Legal Medicine & Medical Ethics
- ABMS Task Force on Competence (1998) and the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Program

# ABMS/MOC has Four Parts:

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1. Professional Standing;
2. Lifelong learning and self-assessment;
3. Cognitive expertise (secure exam); &
4. Practice performance assessment.

- Batmangelich and Adamowski
- 2008, Sheldon Horowitz, M.D.

# FSMB & NAPC Initiatives

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- Federation of State Medical Boards – MOC/MOL
- National Alliance for Physician Competency (NAPC) – Formerly Physician Alliance for Physician Competency (PAPC)
- *Guide to Good Medical Practice* – USA
  - Six Domains of Competency

# Behaviors Exemplifying Competency

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1. Patient Care
2. Medical Knowledge and Skills
3. Practice-based Learning and Improvement
4. Interpersonal and Communication Skills
5. Professional Behavior
6. Systems-based Practice

# Guide to Good Medical Practice–USA

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- <https://gmpusa.org/Docs/GoodMedicalPractice-USA-V1-0WSide.pdf>