

Heuristic Thinking, Heuristics Deficit and Clinical Decision Making

A Colloquium

31 May 2021

12:00-2:30pm

The Office of Health & Medical Education Scholarship (OHMES) is hosting a colloquium for education scholars to begin a discussion regarding Heuristic Thinking and how it relates to clinical decision making, and the problems of Heuristics Deficit in learners and how to address them.

Goal

Stimulate discussion and exploration of the issues associated with Heuristic Thinking, Heuristics Deficit and Clinical Decision Making, with the intent of generating priorities, models, questions, and directions to be pursued.

What are Heuristic Thinking and Heuristics Deficit with respect to clinical decision making?

Heuristic thinking - An approach to problem-solving based on dynamically selecting and applying a range of heuristics to solve apparent problems. Heuristic thinking is required in high pressure and high complexity contexts where speed and efficiency are needed. Diagnostic reasoning is often heuristic, at least initially. Clinicians may become more systematic in their thinking, by adding information, tests, algorithms etc. but it is also slower and less efficient.

Heuristics Deficit - In clinical teaching, when dealing with a learner who is struggling, we sometimes find that they demonstrate a deficiency in their ability to apply heuristics in their problem solving and decision-making. When this is profound, we now apply the term 'Heuristics Deficit'.

Draft Agenda

30 minutes	Introduction – Why is this a problem?
15 minutes	War stories
45 minutes	Problems arising - small groups, focused discussion
30 minutes	Tools we have used; suggestions from group
30 minutes	Wrap Up and Next Steps

Additional Information

Visit the [OLab site](#) for a short video on Heuristics.

Read a work-in-progress paper exploring salient issues in [Heuristics and Clinical Decision Making](#) by Drs. Topps and Ellaway (and future contributors).

Want to Participate?

Please email ohmes@ucalgary.ca to register.