

# **PATIENT EMPOWERMENT AS AN ISSUE IN GENERAL PRACTICE TEACHING**

## **OVERVIEW OF ONE OF THE EXPERIENCES**

Smiljka Radić

Department of General Practice,  
School of Medicine, University of  
Belgrade

The aim of this overview is to show one of the experiences according to patient empowerment in general practice teaching.

# Specialization in general practice at School of medicine, University of Belgrade

One-day course: "Doctor-patient communication in general practice" since 2002/2003 was established. During that course elements of patient centredness and the importance of "expert patient" are stressed and thought.

# Specialization in general practice at School of medicine, University of Belgrade

Course "Medical errors in general practitioner's practice" was incorporated in curriculum of specialization after XI International 2002 Bled course.

# Specialization in general practice at School of medicine, University of Belgrade

Trainees have a chance to be introduced with patient empowerment through practicing examples of a conflict with a patient which illustrates the power difference.

# Specialization in general practice at School of medicine, University of Belgrade

„Ethical issues in general practitioner’s practice“ was included in curriculum of specialization after XII International Bled course.

# Specialization in general practice at School of medicine, University of Belgrade

Trainees learned and practiced, among other issues, about necessity of increasing responsibility of patients for their health.

# Specialization in general practice at School of medicine, University of Belgrade

Since 2005, course about patient centeredness has been organized by two teachers who attended the Bled 2004 course.

# Specialization in general practice at School of medicine, University of Belgrade

In June 2005, in Belegrade the course: "Comorbidity in general practice" was conducted at equal base collaboration of two teachers from School of Medicine, University of Ljubljana and two teachers from School of Medicine, University of Belgrade.

# Specialization in general practice at School of medicine, University of Belgrade

Patient enablement and the management of chronic diseases were in focus within the course.

# Specialization in general practice at School of medicine, University of Belgrade

All above mentioned topics were incorporated in curriculum of specialization of general practice School of Medicine, University of Belgrade for the very first time.

# Continual medical education

Two-days course for general practitioners: "Doctor-patient communication in general practice" was organized last year within the Centre for continual medical education at School of Medicine, University of Belgrade and run by Chair and Deputy Chair of the Department of General Practice.

It is planned to be repeated following the growing interest of physicians.

# Basic medical education

Within one-day course through the subject "Communication", workshop for first-year undergraduate students was conducted and run by a general practitioner in April 2007.

# Basic medical education

Students were introduced with ways how to manage "expert patients". Young colleagues showed great interest in patient empowerment, patient centredness.

# Conclusion

Patient empowerment is very important teaching subject which should be incorporated in general practice teaching as an independent course at different levels: for future doctors and general practitioners