Widening access through collaboration - MedDent
Selection Forum beginning the conversations

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Abstract Theme:
Widening access

Background and Aims
The selection of dental and medical students is a complex, diverse and resource consuming process.

Two academics at the University of Adelaide wanted to ask colleagues several questions:
1. What are we really trying to achieve with selection?
2. Are the tools that we currently use robust, effective and fair?
3. Do our processes address issues of social accountability?
4. Is there interest in developing collegial networks or a community of practice around selection?
5. Can we share: processes, staff and tools used in the selection of students?

Method
Support was canvassed from colleagues within the Universities of Adelaide, Flinders, Queensland and Wollongong and the Medical and Dental Deans of Australia and New Zealand, for a self-funded forum for academic and professional staff interested in the selection of students.

Results
A two day forum was held in Adelaide May 2013, on the processes, staff and tools used in the selection of dental and medical students.

88 out of a potential 90 places were taken up by academic and professional colleagues from 20 medical and 9 dental schools.

Conclusions / Recommendations
There is potential to share and collaborate in the selection of students, widening access for both staff and students.

Findings will be presented from the MedDent Workshop and a follow-up in 2014.

Findings supported by:
1. ANZAHPE post conference workshop on selection 2014: Griffith University
2. Australasian Student Selection for the Health Professions Conference 2015: Monash University and University of Melbourne

SSHPC Short Biography Laven

Dr Gillian Laven is a Senior Lecturer (research and teaching) with the Discipline of Rural Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, the University of Adelaide. She graduated
from the University of Adelaide in 1998 (B(HlthSc) and completed her PhD (Health Sciences) in 2008. She coordinates two courses – Rural Public Health III and Global Health. Her research interests are: medical workforce; selection of medical students and public and global health. Gillian has been a member of the Faculty of Health Sciences Admissions Committee since 2002.