



**PEDIATRICS**  
NEONATAL-PERINATAL MEDICINE  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
HEALTH SYSTEM

# Remaining Human: Using Literature and Cinema to Teach Professionalism

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## Background and Objective

Professionalism is a core competency of graduate medical education. Skills include strong communication abilities and sensitivity to diverse patient populations. Many programs lack well-defined professionalism curriculums. The intense demands of clinical training can result in an inability to treat the patient as a person.

Cinema and literature are novel tools that can evoke emotions and promote reflective discussion about personal behavior, human interaction and cultural sensitivity. Engaged learning outcomes using these methods have not been widely studied.

**Objective:** To determine whether a book/movie club will improve the following engaged student learning outcomes among physician learners:

- Communication skills
- Cultural sensitivity

## Methods

### Intervention:

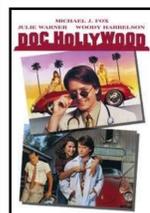
Neonatology physician learners (n=8) and faculty (n=4) have participated in 5 of 6 book/movie clubs. Using the flipped classroom ideology, all participants reviewed the assigned book/movie prior to the event. Each club convened outside the hospital environment and consisted of a meal followed by a one hour discussion. Physician learners completed a pre and post questionnaire reflecting on various discussion topics.

### Assessment and Analysis:

- 1) *Patient and Team Communication Skills of Physician Learners*
  - Pre and post quantitative self evaluation based on the modified version of the American Board of Internal Medicine Patient Assessment Survey (Symons et al.) and the 360 Degree Evaluation of Residents' Interpersonal and Communication Questionnaire (Joshi et al.) compared to a control peer group (n=15).
  - Pre and post quantitative evaluation by nursing staff (8-12 staff/learner) using the 360 Degree Evaluation of Residents' Interpersonal and Communication Questionnaire (Joshi et al).
- 2) *Cultural Sensitivity of Physician Learners*
  - Pre and post quantitative self evaluation based on the Cultural Intelligence Scale (Van Dyne) compared to a control peer group (n=15)
  - Qualitative analysis of club reflective writings for common themes.

## Club Themes and Reflections

### Assumptions

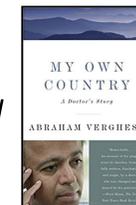


Vialula (Lou) tells Ben Stone to "Peel an onion, it's got lots of layers." What does this quote mean to you?  
*People are lots of versions of themselves. All are true selves, but are exposed to their environment in different ways. I am a fellow, daughter, mother, wife, and friend. All these layers are myself, but require different attitudes and ways of behaving.*

### Outcasts

As physicians, can we avoid or refuse to treat a patient based on our beliefs, fears or risks to our own life?

*I don't think it is right to refuse to treat a patient based on beliefs/race/etc. However, we do have to take care of these patients safely for them and for us. But it seems there should always be a way to do that.*



### Prejudices and Racism

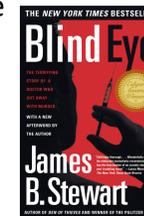


Characters act hatefully in some situations but kindly in others. What do these incidents say about people and human nature?  
*I think it is human nature to pass judgment based on what we see and not the person inside. We see this happen every day and it's become the "norm" unfortunately and I think it's something we all must work on.*

### Integrity and Culture

There were multiple opportunities for individuals to come forward and potentially prevent harm to future patients. How do you think the "culture" of a profession or institution influences our personal integrity?

*Ideally, integrity should trump culture. True integrity would cause you to ignore culture and do what is right. However, culture is often the most oppressing force.*



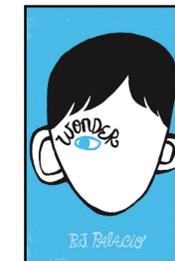
### The Patient Perspective



After viewing the movie and discussing Vivian's experience, will you change your behavior with patients moving forward?

*It's always good to have a reminder to re-commit yourself to provide good care, and to think about every interaction, big or small, as an opportunity to do better.*

## Future Clubs and Directions



### Choose Kind

Auggie's English Teacher, Mr. Browne is known for his precepts – principles to live by. Reflecting back on this year's club discussions, write your precept.

### Future Directions:

- It is anticipated that post-club data collection and statistical analysis will be complete by June and August, 2017, respectively.
- Final results will be shared with the Pediatric and Medical Education Community via publications and presentations at local and national levels.

## Teaching Implications

- The book/movie club is an innovative non-conventional method of exploring both cultural intelligence and interpersonal communication skills.
- To date, this project demonstrates that common literature and cinema can be used in graduate medical education despite the work demands of medical fellowship training.
- Feedback from both faculty and physician learners has been very positive regarding the outside hospital setting, time demands, book/movie choices and themes and sense of comradery among the physician learner group.
- Current plans are to continue the book/movie club as part of the University of Michigan Neonatology Fellowship professional development curriculum for the 2017-2018 year.

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