

Wits Clinical Associate Program & Emory University Physician Assistant Program

Partnership in Progress:
Quality Improvement in Action!

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Background

- ▶ Wits Clinical Associate Bachelor of Clinical Medical Practice (BCMP) Degree Program began 2009
- ▶ Emory Physician Assistant program started in the previous century
- ▶ Twinning Partnership (AIHA) with Emory University Physician Assistant Program March 2010

- ▶ Promote International relations with an American University to further educational goals of the Clinical Associate degree within South Africa

This has proven to be a true Partnership in Progress....



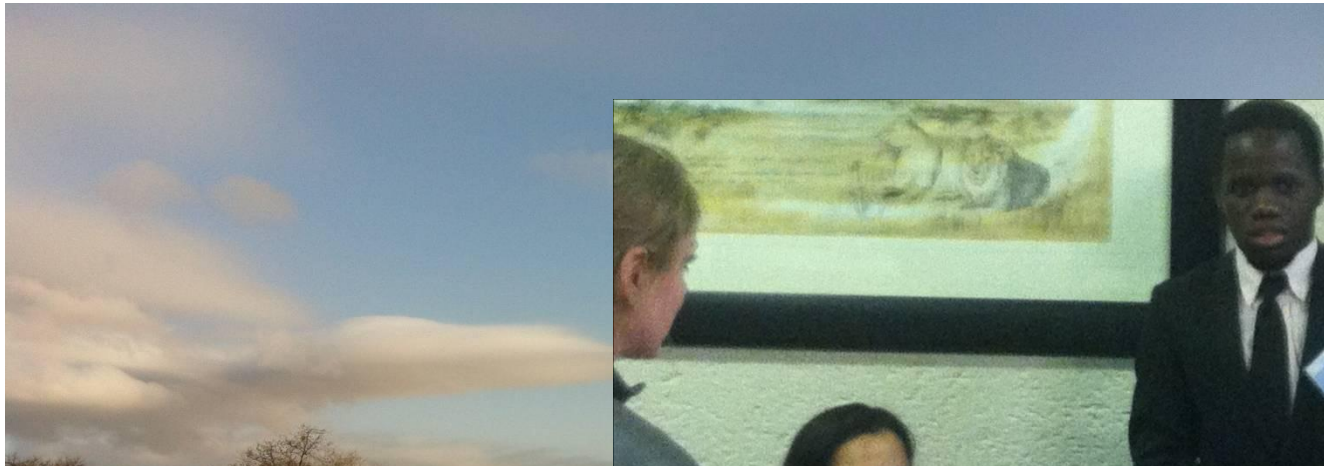
TWINNING PARTNER GOALS: Wits & Emory

1. Share knowledge, experience, resources (staff, materials) to promote growth of the BCMP program
 2. Create opportunities for program staff development to enhance teaching & training capabilities
 3. Foster innovation with curriculum design and evaluation tools to improve quality of education delivery
 4. Further develop new programs for student/graduate career enhancement (Honours Degree/Master's Degree)
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Quality Improvement in Action!

- ▶ Weekend retreat to understand and implement a Quality Improvement project for the partners



The AIM STATEMENT

- ▶ Where is the GAP in the BCMP program? Or really, “GAPS”
- ▶ How to get more staff, promote development
- ▶ How to improve teaching of clinical skills and have our students retain these skills
- ▶ How to improve our OSCE’s - the process & outcomes
- ▶ How to improve the marking of tools for student assessment
 - ▶ Such as: Tests, Exams, Patient Cases, OSCE check sheets
- ▶ We found *our* GAP – different OSCE evaluators marking the same OSCE skill station had vastly different student marks

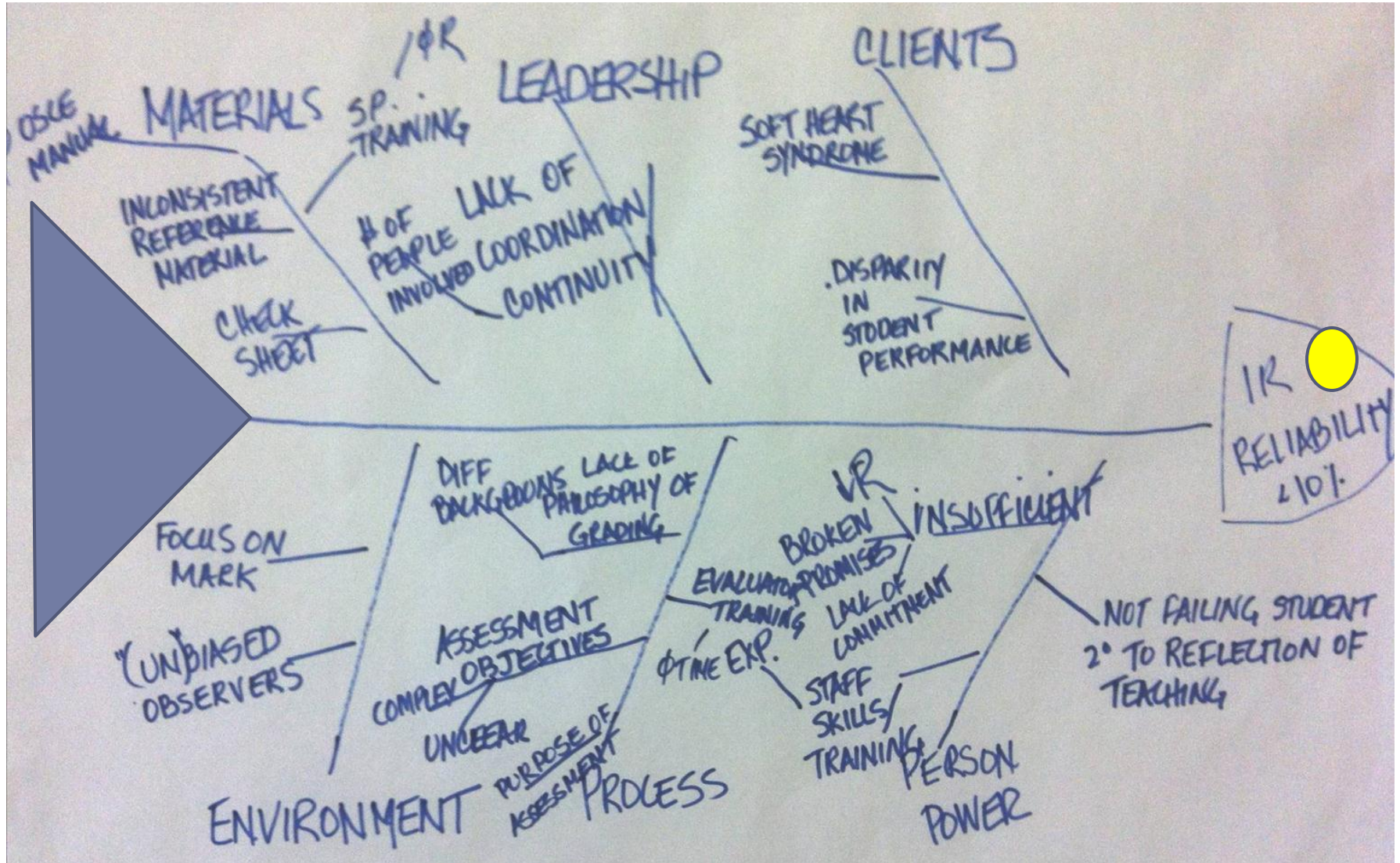


AIM STATEMENT for QI project:

“In the Evaluation of Wits BCMP students, we will improve the inter-rater reliability to less than 10% difference in the OSCE Assessments by June 2013 through staff training, a process of consensus and review of evaluation tools.”



Find the root causes of the GAP- challenges in the way of **our** Quality Improvement



Challenges to this project- extend to attempts to change our other GAPS

Person Power:

- ▶ Insufficient staff numbers – Why?
- ▶ Staff training/skills of the staff – Why?

Process:

- ▶ Lack of philosophy of grading within BCMP – Why?
- ▶ Purpose of assessment – Why?

Materials:

- ▶ Inconsistent reference materials – Why?
 - ▶ Underdeveloped Check Sheets – Why?
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Next part of the QI utilizes Checklists, Flow Charts, Flow lines

- ▶ Check list of how to tackle our root causes

 - ▶ Check list of the other GAPS to address with this QI project as a model- Create Indicators/Action/Outcomes

 - ▶ What are the Next Steps with QI in our partnership?
 1. Apply QI to Improving Student Log books - Electronic?
 2. Gain and retain staff - exchange with Emory
 3. Formalization of the program components - Mgt tool for monthly, yearly planner; actions, assessments, outcomes
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Partnerships in Progress.....

- ▶ The QI workshop provided valuable time with Twinning partner - Emory
- ▶ Linked us yet again with our clinical associate colleagues University of Pretoria, Walter Sisulu University, and soon to be Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University
- ▶ Expanded our relationship with their partners Acadia & Denver
- ▶ Developed new networking links with University of Wisconsin, University of Malawi
- ▶ Efforts contribute to the most important outcome.....



Wits Clinical Associate 2011 Graduates

