



A RATIONALE FOR TEACHING
PHYSIATRIC PRINCIPLES IN MEDICAL
SCHOOL



Canadian Association of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Position Statement

Education Committee (Undergraduate subcommittee): Joy Wee, Sue Dojeiji (chair)

Regardless of practice type and specialty, the majority of physicians will encounter and care for the disabled. New medical doctors are ill equipped to work with this population, as the undergraduate curricula of most medical schools do not emphasize physiatric principles. Physiatric principles include key concepts in neurologic and musculoskeletal assessment and treatment and rehabilitative care management.

Literature supports the need to include physiatric principles education in the undergraduate curriculum, yet this teaching lags behind curative medical education. Guidelines and objectives exist to assist medical schools in educating its students in this essential area.

The Canadian Association of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (CAPM&R) supports the inclusion of physiatric principles in the undergraduate curricula of Canadian medical schools. The attached position paper provides the rationale and methods by which to accomplish this task.