

Simon Says

Simon is unique, and when Simon Says something, doctors across Canada listen.

Dr. Simon Moore is the CEO, Lead Lecturer/Faculty, and Co-Founder of The Review Course in Family Medicine. The course has been presented in Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax over the past 5 years and will have reached almost 2000 participants in 25 courses, all of whom are attending the course in order to become fully qualified family physicians across the country.

I first met Simon not as an educator but as a colleague when he was elected President of the Resident Doctors of Canada, an organization that represents all trainee doctors across the country. We became friends and a year or so after completing our terms and starting our individual careers as Family Physicians we happened to meet for beer and wings outside Canadian Forces Base Borden, Ontario. Simon was there visiting family and I was there on a Military course.

During our discussion that day Simon expressed his want for 'something more' than just family medicine work. He wanted to teach. Already, he was ensconced in teaching medical students through his academic appointment at the University of British Columbia and was receiving rave reviews from the students for his energetic presentations. But, he still wanted more.

Simon was educated at UBC during the era where Powerpoint was both king and queen, victor of teaching methodology. An era where 'teaching' was reduced to the simple act of reading off the sequential screen, click by click, interspersed with an occasional laser beam to highlight a vague key point.

To Simon, every Powerpoint slide was a digital tombstone.

After that meeting and by reflecting on his educational experiences Simon saw the gap in not only educating the future Family Physicians of Canada but in coalescing education and entertainment in a way that it had not been done before in Canadian medical education, and likely never internationally.

Working alongside Simon was enlightening, entertaining and invigorating. With realistic self-examination I know that I was an average presenter and educator before beginning to work closely with Simon on the creation of The Review Course in Family Medicine. It was a unique relationship that allowed for harsh, unfiltered feedback on how to improve. Feedback that can sting and burn, but that left scars that improved, not constricted. I was able to see my weaknesses cast out under the stage lights and was able to improve lecture after lecture in my presentations and thereby - improved my knowledge transfer to our students.

Simon has a unique ability to not only transfer educational content, medically complex in nature, to students at all levels in a manner that is thoughtful, humourous when required, and most importantly in the landslide of medical knowledge that must be consumed - memorable. He has not only taught me how to teach but he has taught thousands of physicians across Canada how teaching should be an experience and not just another Powerpoint slide.

496 Words