

# FOSCEs: Adding Another Library Tile to the Medical School Mosaic

Alexandra Gomes MSLS, MT, AHIP & Tom Harrod MLS  
Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library, The George Washington University

## Background:

The launch of the revised medical school curriculum in Fall 2014 provided new opportunities for librarians to collaborate with clinical faculty. As a result of our past informatics instruction embedded in the first year curriculum, we were invited to expand this content as part of a new Formative Objective Structured Clinical Examination (FOSCE) initiative.

## Developing the Cases:

- For MS1s: 5 cases over 10 months; for MS2s: 2 cases over 5 months
- Developed for use with small groups of students (12 or 16)
- Collaboration with multiple faculty members to develop cases/scenarios
- Cases were block and week-specific, created to match content in other courses within the block
- Lots of active learning including standardized patients and real-time research

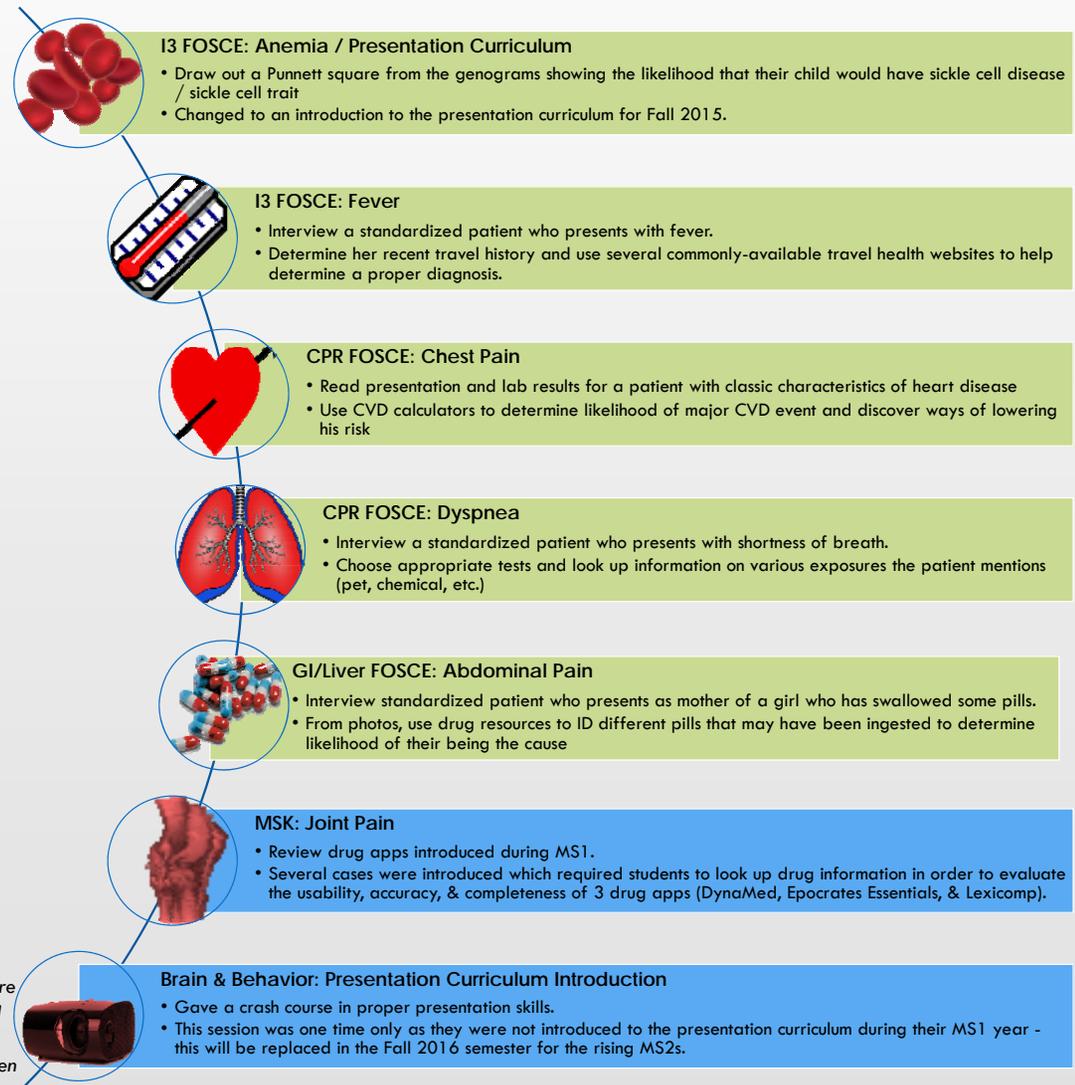


## Facilitating the Cases:

- ½ of group goes to 'Librarian Instructor-Led Exercise' while other ½ does 'Standardized Patient Encounters with CSRI's' (Clinical Skills and Reasoning Instructors) and they switch after 50 minutes
- Librarian instructor-led exercise taught in small groups by two librarians
- Required librarian prep sessions prior to each case to introduce the material/format to those librarians who would be facilitating the sessions

## Lessons Learned:

- One librarian is enough to teach the session
- Remain flexible; many sessions finished development just before they were introduced to the librarian instructors. Cases are 'works in progress' and change based on experience and circumstances
- Faculty are open to proposed curricula and collaboration, especially when it solves one of their problems.
- Faculty now have an enlarged perspective of librarians as curriculum developers and fellow instructional faculty
- Success leads to greater involvement:
  - Led to development of librarian-created presentation curriculum introduced in academic year 2015-2016
  - Led to more successful negotiations for placement of informatics sessions in MS1 year
- This activity created a new leadership role for some of our librarians



## Take Home Message:

- Be open to opportunities
- Seek to find solutions (for yourself and others!) and opportunities
- Be proactive; seize the moment
- Propose a solution to a problem that develops on the fly
- Envision yourself in new roles
- Opportunities often arise during periods of great change