

[P05.005] Mayo Brothers on the Six Core Competencies: A Theoretical Look Back into the Future

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OBJECTIVE: To acknowledge the wisdom and foresight of Drs William and Charles Mayo, and in doing so, capture a glimpse of how they may have viewed the current educational landscape. **BACKGROUND:** In 1999, the ACGME identified six general competencies (patient care, medical knowledge, practice-based learning and improvement, interpersonal and communication skills, professionalism and systems-based practice) for implementation by all specialties. Although the Mayo brothers' writings precede the ACGME six core competency domains by nearly 70 years, they amazingly provide astute commentary on each competency. **DESIGN/METHODS:** Review of primary source documents highlighting selected aphorisms of Drs William and Charles Mayo concerning patient care and education. **RESULTS:** The Mayo brothers' writings are grounded in the primary value "the needs of the patient come first" (William Mayo, Collected Papers, 1910). Their work demonstrates a respect of the past, emphasis in the present, with a keen eye toward the future. Selected aphorisms, particularly relevant to the current educational landscape include: 1. "Today we are suffering from too much knowledge too widely diffused" (William Mayo, JAMA, 1927). 2. "Probably in the not far distant future we will crawl out of our old methods of education as a snake sheds its skin and reorganize a new plan" (Charles Mayo, Collected Papers, 1928). 3. "One of the chief defects in our plan of education in this country, is that we give too much attention to developing the memory and too little to developing the mind" (William Mayo, Collected Papers, 1933). **CONCLUSIONS/RELEVANCE:** The Mayo brothers' "pearls of wisdom" serves us well today as we strive to improve healthcare by enhancing the quality of graduate medical education. We hope that you find these aphorisms not only insightful and, entertaining, but a source of guidance and inspiration as patient care and education evolves in the new millennium.