A Model for Problem Based Learning in Clinical Science Studies

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Purpose
To utilize problem based learning for teaching anatomy and physiology to students pursuing clinical careers in the medical professions.

Methods of Teaching
- Case studies of patients that would typically be seen by a physician or physical therapist.
- Students (groups of 5-6) were provided with the patients’ subjective report and objective findings from a physical exam (figure 1). Their job was to diagnose the condition, describe the rationale for what lead them to their conclusions, and provide a treatment plan.
- Resources:
  - worldwide web
  - reference texts and software
  - "hands-on" labs
  - anatomical models (figure 2)

Assessment of Students’ Activities
- Group – lab report and 10-minute presentation
- Individual – revised lab report completed in group

Assessment of Teaching Method
Comparison of five multiple choice questions and one short essay that asked students to describe the joint motion and muscle activity of a complex task (overhand throwing).

Student Feedback
Students replied that HESC310 challenged them more than HESC220. They said they learned a lot and felt very prepared and excited to continue their studies of physical therapy in graduate school.