

MEDICAL GENETICS ACADEMIC SESSIONS: Guidelines for Journal Club

Medical Genetics Residents, Genetic Counselling Students and CCMG trainees are responsible for leading the Journal Club at Medical Genetics Academic Sessions, which occur approximately once/month.

1. Journal Club dates will be scheduled for the entire academic year. Each learner will be responsible for:
 - a. Medical Genetics Residents: lead one journal club (two articles) per academic year
 - b. CCMG trainees: lead one journal club (two articles) per academic year.
 - c. Genetic Counselling Students (Year one): lead ½ journal club (one article) per academic year
 - d. Genetic Counselling Students (Year two): lead one journal club (two articles) per academic year.
2. A provocative journal club article will be selected by the learner and provided to their program director for approval no later than two weeks prior to their scheduled journal club.
 - a. Published recently dealing with a common clinical problem
 - b. Pulled as a result of a recent clinical encounter
 - c. Report original research (needs a methods section)
 - d. Conclusion could change the way we provide care/management
3. Once approved the learner will submit the article to the chief resident for distribution
4. Journal club sessions should consist of 20 minutes to review article and 10 minutes for discussion
 - a. The presenter will engage a round table and ask questions of all participants
 - b. The use of powerpoint is discouraged
5. Resources to assist critical review and appraisal of articles include
 - a. Pediatrics and Child Health “How to read and evaluate a manuscript that describes data on Human Subjects”
 - b. Critical Appraisal Skills Program Checklists (systematic review, RCT, diagnostic test, economic evaluation, qualitative, case-control, cohort, clinical prediction tool)
<http://www.casp-uk.net/casp-tools-checklists>
 - c. JAMA Series on Step-by-Step Critical Appraisal
http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/gim/training/osler/osler_jama_steps.html
 - d. Mukherjee, R. Owen, K, Hollins, S. (2005) Evaluating Qualitative Papers in a Multidisciplinary Evidence Based Journal Club. Psychiatric Bulletin: **38**: 31-34.
Appendix: Critical Appraisal Guidelines for Qualitative Research
<http://pb.rcpsych.org/content/30/1/31>
 - e. Suggestions for Leading a Journal Club
http://libguides.library.arizona.edu/ld.php?content_id=4310152
 - f. Critical Appraisal Tools <http://www.cebm.net/critical-appraisal/>