

Expert Patient Tutors

supporting students and easing fear of neurology

Neurophobia

fear of neural sciences and clinical neurology

Endemic among medical students worldwide.

Characterized by **poor understanding of neuroanatomy** and its **relationship to clinical symptoms** experienced by patients with neurological conditions such as Parkinson's.

Expert Patient Tutors (EPTs)

sharing their lived experience

People with Parkinson's and other long-term neurological conditions allow students to **observe** and **feel** the effects in a guided neurological examination, an unique opportunity for them to link neuroanatomy with the bedside clinical examination.

EPT in action

Clinician educator:

Guides student to deeper understanding, accurate recognition of characteristics of the condition, good manner with patient



EPT:

Supports student in sensing symptoms, understanding impact of the condition

Student:

Understands patient's concerns and sensitivities, while gaining hands-on experience of symptoms

EPT in action

Evaluation / feedback

EPTs report satisfaction with working alongside bright and eager medical students to nurture their development as future doctors.

“ We help the doctors of tomorrow gain early hands on experience with real patients, with real complex disease. The assumption is that we inspire them; well, they certainly inspire me. ”

Parkinson's EPT



EPTs work closely with clinician educators to provide real-time feedback to students

Students report satisfaction and reward of combating neurophobia and gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of life with a neurological condition.

“ The EPT session was perhaps the most useful learning experience I have ever had at medical school. I felt myself become more confident over the session. ”

Oxford student

Evaluation / feedback

Assessment

Scoring by EPTs in medical student examinations captures essential elements of professionalism often overlooked in traditional assessment. Combined scores from clinician educators and EPTs identify opportunities for improvement by each student.

Assessment

Impact

People with Parkinson's have been integral to the creation, development, and delivery of the EPT programme to eradicate neurophobia one student at a time. In so doing, people with Parkinson's are nurturing the confidence and competence of future doctors to recognise neurological conditions, such as Parkinson's, in the earliest possible stages to make a palpable difference for the better.

Looking ahead

We constantly evolve as we learn together. Combining the feedback from clinicians, students and patients as equal stakeholders has shown its value and will enable us to develop holistic doctors of the future. An electronic EPT programme toolkit is being developed in Oxford. We plan to make it available for adoption by other institutions.

In depth

Our companion site neurophobia.info has references, contact information and more.

