

Brief Teaching for Beginners
Residents as Teachers Program
University of Maryland School of Medicine

Case: It's July and you are the new intern on the general inpatient team. You feel like you are being squeezed from both ends: both the students (in an attempt to learn) and your senior (in an attempt to teach) are constantly asking you questions about your patients' problems, and how one diagnoses and treats them. You are sure that everyone else on the team knows the answers, and only YOUR medical school neglected to teach its students anything useful. How can you quickly find answers to some of those questions and produce a short "talk" to share what you have learned with your team?

Five Key Points:

1. You don't have to answer every question at the moment it's asked. Consider yourself a member of a team of learners, and look for opportunities to find answers to questions that are not essential for immediate patient care and bring them back to the team.
2. Make sure the question is focused and relevant to the team's current work.
3. Find an article on the topic that is at an appropriate level of complexity.
4. Make copies of the article for everyone and attach a handout with an illustrative case or cases and the five key points from the reading.
5. Spend 10 minutes reviewing the specific part of the article that deals with the question that was asked.

Strategies in Clinical Teaching. Kansas University School of Medicine, Wichita. <http://wichita.kumc.edu/strategies/index.html>