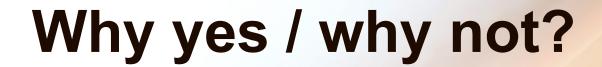
Relevance of English as an International Language of Medicine

Jasmina Rogulj, MSc, senior lecturer Ivana Čizmić, BA, senior lecturer Is English for Medical Purposes (EMP) important in your future career?



English is...

"...by far the most used language in international medical meetings [as well as] the main medium for medical textbooks, journals, and abstracting indexes, ..."

(Maher 1986, Applied Lingustics)

"...in the second half of the twentieth century **English** emerged as the predominant *lingua franca* in medicine."

(Maclean and Maher 1994, The Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics)

"English has steadily replaced other languages in research literature and has become the lingua franca of the international science community."

(Flowerdew, 1999a, 1999b cited by Mišak, Marušić, M., Marušić, A., 2005)

lingua franca, noun

a language which is used for communication between groups of people who speak different languages but which is not used between members of the same group

Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary



professional requirement

working environment

academic career

Continuing medical education (CME) / Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

"Continuing medical education (CME) can be defined as educational activities which serve to maintain, develop or increase the knowledge, skills and professional performance and relationships that a physician uses to provide services for patients, the public, or the profession."

(EACCME)

Medical conferences

- e.g. EACCME the central body for accrediting events in Europe
- in 2010 **1030 events** in more than 40 medical specialties
- ➤ EACCME → UEMS → CMA

 Croatian Medical Association

≻Medical journals



READING

> EVIDENCE-BASED MEDICINE

the practice of medicine in which the physician finds, assesses, and implements methods of diagnosis and treatment on the basis of the best available, current research, their clinical expertise, and the needs and preferences of the patient.

Dorland's Medical Dictionary

WRITING

- > researchers "publish or perish" approach
- clinicians work accessible to the global community

Mišak, A., Marušić, M., Marušić, A. (2005). Manuscript editing as way of teaching academic writing: Experience from a small scientific journal. *Journal of Second Language Writing*, 14, 122-131.

- Exams: PLAB, USMLE
 - Professional and Linguistics Assessment Board
 - PLAB Part 1 and 2
 - IELTS scores (7.0)
 - United States Medical Licensing Examination
 - STEPS 1, 2, 3
 - STEP 2 Integrated Clinical Encounter
 - Communication and Interpersonal Skills
 - Spoken English Proficiency

 Medical encounters with native and nonnative English-speaking patients

PROCEDURE	CRO	GER	UK	US
Hip replacement	6.300	14.000	24.200	30.000
Knee replacement	6.200	12.300	15.400	30.000



- ➤ The Greek Era
- Hippocratic writings:
 - cover all aspects of medicine
 - numerous medical terms

- the Romans imported Greek medicine

 names of diseases and symptoms derive from Greek e.g. diarrhoea (throughflow)
 dyspnoea (bad breathing)

➤ Medical Latin

 Middle Ages – Greek medical texts were translated into Arabic

 at the time of the renaissance – Greek and Arabic works were translated into Latin

 all important medical works were published in Latin

➤ National Medical Languages

 medical English, medical French, medical German, medical Italian etc.

 they had much in common – medical terms were derived from medical Latin

 there were also systematic differences that still persist

- ➤ Medical English
- medical journals, international conferences in English
- the era of medical English a single language for international communication
- register of medical terms today
 – composed of words borrowed from ordinary English

e.g. bypass operation screening scanning

- English-speaking doctors accept direct loans with Latin endings
 - e.g. medulla oblongata diabetes mellitus
- medical scientists coined a number of new terms composed of Greek roots
 - e.g. ophtalmoscopy erythrocyte
- ➤ 90% of the medical terminology today derive from Greek and Latin

Communication skills training



Useful links

www.onelook.com – online dictionaries

 www.medscape.com – medical news, fulltext journal articles and more

www.medline.com

http://www.bbc.co.uk/health/