Introducing Cognitive Errors to Medical Students

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How Doctors Think is not only the title of a best selling book, but an important concept for medical students to be taught. Both system and cognitive errors are commonplace in the medical system, of which medical students are a vital part. System errors are a major focus of learning throughout the SELECT curriculum, but the four years of school have not done enough to teach students about the thought process behind cognitive errors and bias, how to recognize them, and how to avoid them.

My final results are a 2-3 hour session for 4th year students to learn about cognitive bias and systemic errors. The curriculum involves pre-reading, lecture content with powerpoint support, small-group break out sessions with a faculty leader packet, and a pre/post test to measure knowledge attained. My goal for the project is that it will be utilized in the 4th year SELECT curriculum as one of the optional sessions for students to attend.

I believe that my completed lesson plan can be used to successfully educate 4th year students on bias and improve their thought process patterns and recognition. Future plans could involve using the pre- and post-test to quantify the success of the curriculum.