

Abstract for ENSE Sport Summit 2017

Title:

EXPLORING TALENT DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE PERFORMANCE DOMAINS OF SPORT, SURGERY AND MUSIC.

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Aim:

This study aims to explore talent identification, talent development and development of expertise across the performance domains of sport, surgery and music in order to investigate if the field of undergraduate surgical education may benefit from expanding its view on talented performances among students by including notions on talent from the field of sport.

Methods:

We conducted a five-step scoping study based on a literature search in six databases. In supplement, we conducted an interview study with 12 experienced surgeons in order to explore how they conceptualized and defined talent, and we conducted a case study on “Dream Team” which is an undergraduate surgical talent development project at Aarhus University.

Results:

We included 243 studies from the performance domains of sports (115 studies), surgery (69 studies), music (34 studies), and cross-disciplinary studies (25 studies) published in the 1985-2014 period. Compared with the domains of sports and that of music, the domain of surgery was characterized by only few studies focusing on psychological, motivational and/or environmental factors influencing talent development and high performance. Also, the studies in surgery was dominated by a talent-identification mind-set, whereas as the other domains were characterized by a combination of talent-identification and talent-development mind-sets. However, the case study and the interview study resonate with the holistic ecological approach from sport science and hence highlight the limits of a reductionist approach while favoring the individual-environment system as the minimal ontology for describing talented performances.

Conclusion:

Informed by the performance domains of sport and its inclusion of a holistic, ecological approach to research on talent development, this study suggests that research in undergraduate surgical education may benefit from broadening its view on talent by including psychosocial variables and environmental, demographic and structural influencers when considering how future surgical talent may be identified and developed.