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## CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF MEDICAL TEACHERS: DIRECTIONS

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Continuous professional development (CPD) of medical teachers is essential for ensuring high-quality medical education and the effective training of future healthcare professionals. Contemporary challenges in medicine require educators not only to possess deep subject-matter expertise but also to master effective teaching methodologies, digital technologies, and research skills. Ongoing professional training enhances the educational process, improves its efficiency.

The professional growth of medical teachers includes multiple domains, including medical competence, pedagogical expertise, research activities, digital literacy, and psycho-pedagogical training. These areas are practically reflected in the structure of faculty training programs offered by the Academic Center for Continuous Professional Education at Bogomolets National Medical University (NMU), Kyiv, Ukraine.

Key training topics such as "Psychological and Pedagogical Foundations of Medical Education," "Application of Case-Based Learning in Teaching," "Utilizing Artificial Intelligence and Immersive Technologies," "Communication Competence of Medical Educators," and "Developing Clinical Thinking in Medical Education" play a crucial role in refining teaching skills and improving pedagogical proficiency.

Moreover, continuous professional development for medical educators extends beyond pedagogical training to include technical and clinical skills

enhancement. Keeping up to date with the latest clinical guidelines, diagnostic methods, and treatment approaches allows educators to convey the most current medical knowledge to students in line with modern healthcare standards.

The integration of interactive teaching strategies, simulation-based education, and digital learning tools significantly enhances instructional effectiveness. Additionally, participation in scientific research, publication writing, and incorporating research findings into the curriculum strengthens the research-oriented aspect of medical education.

Digital competence development is another critical component, encompassing the use of online learning platforms, electronic educational resources, and modern technologies for organizing and optimizing the educational process. Furthermore, medical educators must acquire psychological competencies, including student motivation techniques, communication skills, and psychological support strategies, which contribute to a more engaging and supportive learning environment.

Continuous professional development for medical educators employs a diverse range of training formats and methodologies, including advanced training courses, workshops and teaching seminars, participation in conferences and international exchange programs, mentorship programs and interdisciplinary collaboration

Most of these CPD components have been successfully implemented in Bogomolets NMU. Self-directed learning through open educational resources, online courses, and webinars also plays a significant role in professional growth. The university actively supports faculty development by offering educational programs, encouraging participation in scientific research, international projects, and grants, and implementing effective motivation strategies, including financial and other incentives.

Continuous professional development of medical teachers positively affects the quality of medical education. The core components of CPD include: adaptability to medical advancements, enhancement of professional skills, fostering a culture of lifelong learning, knowledge expansion, and pedagogical excellence. Through the initiatives of the Center for Continuous Professional Education, key development priorities have been outlined, focusing on medical competence, pedagogical expertise, digitalization of education, psychological readiness for teaching, and the broadening of professional perspectives among medical educators.

