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Letter to the Editor

Team-based learning as a catalyst for interdisciplinary competencies in dental education

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Dear Editor,

We are writing in response to the recently published article on innovative pedagogical approaches in healthcare education by.¹ We wish to emphasize the significant role of Team-Based Learning (TBL) in dental education, not only in strengthening academic knowledge but also in fostering essential interpersonal and collaborative skills.

TBL has been shown to significantly enhance students' abilities to work in teams, a critical competence in the dental profession. Beyond mastering technical skills, dental practitioners must effectively collaborate with interdisciplinary teams to provide holistic patient care. TBL introduces students to real-world scenarios through group dynamics, promoting effective communication and problem-solving. This active, problem-based learning method transforms the traditional lecture format, enabling students to cultivate teamwork, leadership, and critical thinking abilities—skills indispensable for success in modern healthcare environments.^{2,3}

Moreover, TBL prepares students for the 21st-century challenges in education, where rapid problem-solving, critical thinking, and collaboration are essential. As healthcare systems become increasingly complex and interdisciplinary, dental students must be equipped to navigate high-pressure situations

and adapt swiftly to new information. TBL achieves this by engaging students in time-sensitive, collaborative decision-making tasks, enhancing not only their academic understanding but also their practical readiness for real-world challenges.⁴

In alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 4: Quality Education, TBL promotes inclusive and equitable education by fostering skills that are relevant in today's healthcare landscape.⁵ By prioritizing collaboration and critical thinking, TBL ensures that dental education meets the demands of evolving healthcare systems, ultimately contributing to improved health outcomes.

In conclusion, we believe that TBL represents a forward-thinking and impactful approach in dental education. It empowers students to develop the interpersonal and collaborative competencies required for effective teamwork and prepares them to meet the intricate demands of the 21st-century healthcare environment.

Sincerely,

Author and Co-authors.

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Conflict of interest

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