
THE BENEFITS OF APPLYING THEORY IN UNDERGRADUATE BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE EDUCATION: A STUDENT'S EXPERIENCE

Benjamin Petersen

Presenting Author: Benjamin Petersen (Benjamin.J.Petersen@uon.edu.au)
Undergraduate Student, Bachelor of Biomedical Science, University of Newcastle, Callaghan NSW 2308, Australia

KEYWORDS: undergraduate, biomedicine, student experience

Throughout my studies in biomedical science, I've enjoyed exploring the complexities of the human body and microbiology, as well as applying the theory to more hands-on learning experiences in laboratories and extracurricular research projects. Frequent problem-based learning with theoretical scenarios helps to solidify the relevancy and necessity of what we are learning. Whether it's discovering mechanisms of pathogenesis, diagnosing diseases or synthesising therapeutic drugs, the emphasis on problem-solving and collaborative work in biomedical science is both stimulating and rewarding. Participation in summer research projects gives invaluable insight into biomedical science applications and shows what it takes to succeed in the real world. However, due to their merit-based nature and limited accessibility, many students are unable to partake in these projects. I believe work integrated learning placements should be incorporated into undergraduate biomedical science programs to provide students with the indispensable experience of workplace immersion. For a biomedical scientist to succeed, theoretical knowledge is undeniably essential. However, it is the teamwork, analytical and problem-solving skills that I've developed and refined throughout my degree that have most profoundly contributed to my continued success and given me the confidence and expertise to excel in my future career.

Proceedings of the Australian Conference on Science and Mathematics Education, The University of Sydney and University of Technology Sydney, 2 - 4 October 2019, page 81, ISBN Number 978-0-9871834-8-4