



## Educational Development Office

# MILLER'S PYRAMID

FOR ASSESSING CLINICAL COMPETENCE

Miller's pyramid model divides the development of clinical competence into four, hierarchical processes. On the lowest level of the pyramid is 'knowledge', tested by written exams and traditional multiple-choice questions (MCQs). The next level stands for 'application of knowledge', assessed by essays, clinical problem-solving exercises and extended MCQs. The third tier of the pyramid represents 'clinical skills competency', assessed by standardized patient exercises, simulations and clinical exams. Finally, on top of the pyramid is 'clinical performance', assessed by direct observation in real clinical settings.

Miller's ideas strive to define education by its outputs and not by its inputs. At the end of any teaching intervention we are interested in what learners can do, which is not the same as what we have taught them. The higher levels have greater professional authenticity

