Signs & Symptoms of Learning Syndromes:
Behaviors Affecting Academic Performance

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Signs & Symptoms of Learning Syndromes

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Signs & Symptoms of Learning Syndromes

• PA students engage in a myriad of survival behaviors to aid in their quest to successfully pass course content
• The rapid pace of learning can negatively impact their ability to synthesize and retain content
• And our high expectations regarding academic performance can result in students falling into dysfunctional patterns of studying that do not support adequate learning
• E. Robert Burns,¹ a professor of anatomy at the University of Arkansas labeled these dysfunctional patterns as discrete learning syndromes in medical students.

• These “learning syndromes” characterize many of the behaviors we see at OHSU, and epitomize behaviors we think are familiar at other programs as well!
Signs & Symptoms of Learning Syndromes

- Six Chambered Heart Syndrome
- Slip and Slide Syndrome
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• Oh Yeah! Syndrome
• Too Many Books Syndrome
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- Post-Genius Syndrome
- Irrelevant Material Syndrome
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- Alternate Syndrome
- Recognize the Old Test Question Syndrome
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- Memorize Everything – Understand Little Syndrome
• Focused Discussion Activity – 25 minutes
  – Each table has three assigned learning syndromes
  – Have you seen these student approaches to studying? Share your observations with your tablemates
  – Discuss each learning syndrome and brainstorm strategies that might assist students in managing their learning behaviors
– Six Chambered Heart Syndrome
– Slip and Slide Syndrome
– Oh Yeah! Syndrome
– Too Many Books Syndrome
– Post-Genius Syndrome
– Irrelevant Material Syndrome
– Alternate Syndrome
– Recognize the Old Test Question Syndrome
– Memorize Everything-Understand Little Syndrome
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- Levison DA. How not to learn and how to learn as a medical student. Med Teach. 2006;28(3):209.