

Clinical Courage

The background is a solid blue color. On the right side, there are several overlapping circles. A large green circle is partially visible, overlapping a blue circle. To its right, an orange circle overlaps a blue circle. Further right, a yellow circle overlaps an orange circle. In the bottom left corner, a yellow circle is partially visible, overlapping a blue circle.

Presented by Dr. Jill Konkin & Dr. Lucie Walters

Exploration of rural physicians' lived experience of practising outside their usual scope of practice to provide access to essential medical care (clinical care): an international phenomenological study

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BMJ OPEN 2020;10:E037705, DOI:10.1136/BMJOPEN-2020-037705

Study Objectives

To explore the lived experience of rural doctors when they practice outside their usual scope of practice to provide medical care for people who would otherwise not have access to essential clinical services.



Methods

- Hermeneutic pheomenological study
- Semi-structured interviews
- Participants in international conference on rural health in predominantly English-speaking communities





Results

- 27 interviews
- broad range of career stages
- countries represented: Australia, Canada, USA, New Zealand, South Africa, Scotland, Papua New Guinea
- 6 elements of clinical courage identified



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Standing up to serve anybody &
everybody in the community





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Accepting uncertainty and
persistently seeking to prepare






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Deliberately understanding and
marshalling resources in context





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Humbly seeking to know one's
own limits





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Clearing the cognitive hurdle when
something needs to be done for
your patient





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Collegial support to stand up
again



Conclusion

- Relationships with community & colleagues essential
- Humility & capacity to act required
- Implications both for medical education & professional development of practicing rural physicians

