Medical Journal Honors Anniversary of Flexner Report

In 1910, Abraham Flexner published the “Report on Medical Education in the United States and Canada” for the Carnegie Foundation, a document which changed the way schools trained pre-medical and medical students. As we head into the second century of modern medical training, the journal Perspectives in Biology and Medicine has published a special issue which examines the legacy of what is commonly called The Flexner Report.

The Winter 2011 issue of the journal, published by the Johns Hopkins University Press and edited by Alan N. Schechter and Peter V. Rabins, puts the spotlight on the effects of Flexner’s work and the continued evolution of medical education, now on a global scale. Major curriculum changes are underway at leading schools here and abroad. Donald A. Chambers from the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Chicago guest edited the issue.

“The editors of Perspectives in Biology and Medicine determined that in recognition of the Flexner Report, this year is appropriate to consider emerging trends that are likely to guide and revitalize medical education in the 21st century,” Chambers wrote in his introduction to the issue.

Eleven essays ranging from “Flexner at 100: A Brief View from Oxford” to “Medical Education in an Era of Health-Care Reform” fill the issue. Chambers says the issue aims to connect the lessons of the past to today’s ever-evolving landscape of medical education and health care.

In addition to the special issue, Chambers has shared his thoughts on many topics included in the special issue in a podcast available for download at http://www.press.jhu.edu/journals/podcasts.html.

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