

Five lessons from the Finnish specialist physician training at the Virtual university of occupational health

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Specialty training of Occupational Health (OH) is regulated and arranged in collaboration of the five universities providing medical education in Finland. Ministry of Health and Social Affairs is responsible for the training program. The medical universities are responsible for the nationally united curriculum. Specialisation is more and more competence-based. The essentials of specialty training are learned at work, in over 200 university-approved training centers with the support of 350 specialists in OH trainers. There are about 900 specializing physicians in OH. The basic qualification training takes place working as a physician under tutelage in contractual OH units. Training includes also working in a municipal health care center, clinical units, Finnish Institute of Occupational Health and in rehabilitation assessment unit. Essential elements of OH training program are theoretical studies (200 h), leadership studies (10 ECTS) and weekly tutoring at OH-unit and rehabilitation periods (three years of five). The Virtual University of Occupational Health Care (VUOH) is a unique collaborative result of the five universities. The VUOH has a shared virtual learning environment for courses at the DigiCampus and webpages tthvyo.fi for informing all those interested or participating in specialty training of OH.