APGO ACADEMIC SCHOLARS AND LEADERS
ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSORS OF GYNECOLOGY AND OBSTETRICS
2026-2027

Session: Literature Reviews in Medical Education

Instructor: Jody Steinauer, MD, PhD—University of California, San Francisco

Date: Thursday, January 8, 2026; 12:45 pm – 4:30 pm

Introduction

Literature reviews provide an essential foundation to any discipline and project. The purpose of this session is to describe the need for and types of literature reviews, to delineate the steps in planning and writing a literature review, and to practice searching the literature. It will also help you do a literature search before you embark on your Education Application Project (EAP.)

Objectives

Scholars will be able to:

1. Describe three types of literature reviews used in medical education.
2. Identify the format and elements of a review article.
3. Identify and practice the necessary steps of a literature search.
4. Review AI resources that can assist with literature search and reviews.
5. Begin a literature search about your Education Application Project (EAP).

Key Words

Narrative Literature Review, Systematic Literature Review, Literature Search

Before the Session

1. Please come to the session with specific medical education research or curricula question that will guide a literature search related to your EAP. For example, if you are interested in planning a curriculum around addressing and interrupting microaggressions in a clinical learning environment, you would want to search the literature first to see if others have published about similar curricula. In the session you will use your question to do a literature search and to outline a protocol for a literature review.
2. Watch this short tutorial on expanding your literature search in PubMed: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=46ONy6KXd18

3. Use an AI (Chat GPT, Claude, Elicit, LitLLM, Semantic Scholar, or other) to help you define search terms for a PubMed search to find papers that would help you answer your question. So, for the example above, you would tell the AI about your project and your interest in understanding whether there have been published curricula about interrupting microaggressions in whichever groups of learners you are interested in. You would tell it that you want to search for papers on PubMed and work with it to draft search terms. Feel free to ask it how it has decided on those terms. Then ask the AI to do the search (either through PubMed or whichever databases it has access to) and to list and summarize the papers. Bring the search terms and the findings to the session.

In the Session
1. Participate in a large group session on orientation to literature searches and reviews.
2. Search the PubMed database for papers related to your EAP-related medical education question, trouble shoot challenges and share your findings in pairs.
3. Use your question to outline a protocol for a literature review.

Resources and References
- Sewell JL, Maggio LA, Artino AR Jr. Planning the Literature Review. *Acad Med*. 2016;91(12):e18. PMID: 27384108.
- Sharma R, Gordon M, Dharamsi S, Gibbs T. Systematic reviews in medical education: a practical approach: AMEE guide 94. *Med Teach*. 2015;37(2):108-124. PMID: 25314376.
- National Library of Medicine tutorials on searching PubMed. https://learn.nlm.nih.gov/documentation/training-packets/T0042010P/

AI Resources
Elicit - https://elicit.com/
LitLLM - https://litllm.onrender.com/
Semantic Scholar - https://www.semanticscholar.org/
Claude – https://claude.ai
ChatGPT - https://chatgpt.com/

Notes: