A conceptual model: essential dimensions of a primary care generalist medical practitioner

Ways of being (ontological frame)

**Virtuous character**: holds ethical character traits of compassion, tolerance, trust, empathy and respect.

**Reflexive**: interdependent; reflects on judgements and biases; lifelong learner.

**Interpretive**: uses processes of interpretation to understand patients, with an emphasis on the contextual factors; use of multiple health systems languages; active listener; autonomous decision-maker; has good communication skills.

Ways of knowing (epistemological frame)

**Biotechnical**: uses scientific and rational evidence; high index of suspicion; biomedically driven; technically focused; uses advanced information systems.

**Biographical**: concentrates on lived experience and life story; family, carers, community and social knowledge all provide evidence.

Ways of doing (theoretical frame)

**Access**: accessible; first-contact point; gatekeeper; provides referral.

**Approach**: balances individual versus population needs; consultation-based; holistic; comprehensive; flexible; adaptable; acts across clinical boundaries; provides early diagnosis; interdisciplinary team approach; negotiates and coordinates services; integrates knowledge; promotes health through education; prevents disease; is culturally sensitive; provides patient-centred care; minimises service inequities; reduces service fragmentation.

**Time**: provides continuity of care over whole of life cycle.

**Context**: community-based; uncertain; complex; deals with undifferentiated multiple problems of patients; acute and chronic care.