



## *Tips for Creating a Comprehensive and Interactive Patient Case Study*

This learning program relies on you, as facilitator, to build and present one or more appropriate patient case studies that will stimulate discussion with your peers. Here are a few tips to help you prepare a case study that will stimulate dialogue and interest.

1. Provide background information about the patient – age, gender, duration of symptoms, tests already conducted with results
2. Present critical elements of patient history
  - *To get discussion going*, ask: What additional information would you collect?
3. Present outcomes of physical examination and investigations
  - *Precede this by asking*: What would you assess on physical examination of this patient? What lab tests or imaging would you order?
4. Discuss the possible diagnoses as a group
  - *To get discussion going*, ask: What are the possible diagnoses for this patient? Which diagnosis is most likely, given the facts presented so far? Any further tests?
5. Review, as relevant, the therapeutic options
  - *Precede this by asking*: What should be the treatment goals for this patient? What are your treatment options? What treatment option would you choose? Why?
6. Describe how the patient fared on treatment, and any changes that were warranted
7. Talk about patient counselling points/tips
8. Identify how frequently a patient like this should be followed
9. Consider twists in the patient case presentation that might lead to different solutions
  - *To get discussion going*, ask: What would prompt a change in treatment option? What if...?
10. Ask colleagues to identify the key learning points and application take-aways
  - *To get discussion going*, ask: Based on what you have learned through this case, what are the key take-away messages? What might you do differently?