A Curriculum to Improve Resident Application of Medical Education Theory: A Constructivist Approach

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BACKGROUND

• 96% of pediatric residents in our program feel it is at least moderately important to receive clinician educator training
• Only 34% of these residents feel that the program places adequate emphasis on this type of training

METHODS

A curriculum rooted in constructivism and consisting of monthly evening sessions was developed using Kern’s Six-Step Approach

RESULTS

Survey Data

• 5 sessions have occurred to date, out of 10 total for the academic year
• Each session had an average of 17 participants
• 79% overall survey response rate
• 96% of residents found sessions to be at least moderately helpful, with 77% finding them either extremely or very helpful
• As compared to self-perceived ability prior to each session, after each session residents noted a significant improvement in their ability to:
  - Describe each educational model (1.92 vs 3.98, p<0.001)
  - Apply each educational model (1.87 vs 3.41, p<0.001)

Reflection Themes

• Residents most commonly described an improved framework for medical education concepts and theories
• Residents highlighted the importance of tailoring educational strategies towards specific and measurable learning objectives
• Residents valued the time dedicated to practical application within each session

CONCLUSIONS

• We developed and implemented a novel curriculum series for pediatric residents that focuses on medical education theory
• Residents had the opportunity to build on their existing knowledge and skills through interactive discussions and real-time application of educational models
• Their self-perceived ability to describe and apply core educational models improved after each session

Limitations:

• Residents self-select to participate in the curriculum, and are therefore assumed to be more inherently interested in medical education
• Evaluation of the curriculum's impact on clinician educator training is based on self-perception, and does not yet incorporate direct observation

IMPLICATIONS

• Initial evaluation of our MedEd Core Curriculum demonstrates that it is an effective educational tool and could be a meaningful component of a Medical Education Pathway
• Further evaluation of the Medical Education Pathway as a whole is warranted

DISCLOSURES

• We have no conflicts of interest to disclose