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AN EVALUATION OF A PEDIATRICS RESIDENCY RESEARCH CURRICULUM

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Background:

Introduction: In 2016, the University of Manitoba Pediatrics Residency launched a 4-week Academic Skills & Knowledge (ASK) rotation for first year residents (PGY1). Topics included statistics, research design, and critical appraisal.

Objective:

The goal of this study was to evaluate ASK to assess the rotation's value and facilitate revisions.

Methods:

Methods: In 2017, pre- and post-ASK focus groups assessed resident goals and feelings about the rotation. Written exams before (time0) and immediately after (time1) the rotation assessed knowledge gains (2016 through 2018) and retention (time2, 6mo post-ASK, 2017 and 2018). PGY1s in each ASK cohort (10-11/year) and 8 non-ASK residents (typically PGY4s) were compared with the same exam. Mean test scores were compared using paired and unpaired t-tests, as appropriate. Focus groups were transcribed and analyzed qualitatively for themes by two analysts.

Results:

Results: In the pre-ASK focus group, residents looked forward to ASK; goals centered around growing from learner to expert (in research, teaching and medicine) as well as developing skills in critical appraisal. Local research contacts and expert advice were also expected. Post-ASK, residents were very satisfied with the rotation, particularly with the opportunities to apply teaching in practical sessions and with the opportunity to develop relationships with their peers. As detailed in table 1, the results of the written exam revealed significantly increased knowledge at both post-course assessments with intermediate knowledge retention. Non-ASK residents had significantly lower scores than ASK residents at time1 but not time2.

Conclusion:

Conclusion: Our study demonstrated participant satisfaction with ASK and increased knowledge that persisted over time in PGY1s, whose knowledge matched that of more senior residents. Limitations include small sample size. Given its positive reception, ASK is now an essential rotation early in the first year of pediatric training.