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106 A Multi-modal Curriculum for Emergency Medicine Residents to Maximize Value of

Attendance at a National Conference

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Background: All Emergency Medicine (EM) residents are required to complete a scholarly project prior to graduation. To encourage scholarly activity, programs send residents to a national conference. We know of no formal curriculum that ensures residents maximize the value of this conference experience.

Objectives: We designed and implemented a multi-modal curriculum during a conference to augment conference programming. Our goals included: to help identify areas of interest, exposure to scholarly inquiry, and to encourage development of meaningful and feasible scholarly projects.

Curricular Design: Residents were required to attend 1-2 sessions daily pre-selected by the curricular design team due to relevance for resident research as well as attend at least two self-selected sessions per day. Two 75-minute daily debriefs were held after conference days. Sessions began with a brief presentation by a faculty member followed by small group discussions (led by a chief resident and an assistant program director) and finished with reportage. Day 1's presentation was "Research Experiences as a Resident: Identifying Opportunities" followed by small group discussions focused on "I Wish I Had Thought of That" (easy to conduct research with potentially high-impact results) and "Cool Idea but Could Have Been Done Better" (research on important issues in EM but with methodologic flaws). Day 2's presentation was "Pursuing Research Training to Enhance an EM Career" followed by small groups where individuals shared ideas and culminated with residents reporting on the project ideas of others to the larger group.

Impact: Post-session surveys found the curriculum to be effective in advancing scholarly projects and optimized attending the conference. Ninety-two percent felt the curriculum gave them new ideas for projects and improved existing plans for scholarly projects. Twenty-five percent felt the curriculum should be expanded in the future.