Strangers in a Strange Land:
A Cultural Competency/Acculturation Curriculum for
International Medical Graduates (IMGs)

Problem/ Background
IMGs face unique challenges including:
• Acculturation
• Patient communication
• Understanding and practicing patient-centered care

Project Goal
1) Better understand IMG residents' knowledge, skills, and attitudes toward patient care
2) Evaluate a curriculum designed to improve knowledge of U.S. medical culture, increase confidence in communication, and ease transition to residency.

Project Team & Roles
• Cindy Katz (me): focus groups, designed and implemented curriculum
• Ginny Niebuhr, Steve Paik: mentorship
• Johanna Bromberg-Craig: Statistics

Interventions
• PGY-1s only
• 2 hour workshops: discussion, didactics videos, role play
• Topics covered:
  • Patient-centered care
  • Importance of social history
  • Cultural/ethnic diversity
  • Health literacy
  • Non-traditional families
  • Challenging patient communication scenarios

Progress to Date
• 3 years of workshops complete-36 residents
• Internal Medicine adapted for their residents
• MedEdPORTAL submission in progress

Data
• Patient Practitioner Oriented Scales (PPOS)
  • Statistically significant post-curriculum increase in importance of patient-centered care
• 1-year follow-up:
  • Residents reported drawing on workshop content
    • Communicating with challenging patients
    • Coping with different cultures
    • Aiming for patient-centered care
  • “Moderately” to “extremely” influential for meeting each curriculum goal.

Lessons Learned
• Small groups enhance discussion
• Feedback helps improve subsequent workshops
• Heads up to residents prior to workshop on discussion topic
• Important to get buy-in from other faculty
• SNACKS!

Next Steps
• Dissemination: MedEdPORTAL, Share warehouse
• Better outcome data to move beyond self report of attitudes and behavior

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