“Causality: Lack of specialized training education in the field of palliative care in US medical schools.”

The purpose of this research is to investigate the causality for the lack of specialized training in the field of palliative care in US medical schools. Palliative care has been recognized as an important treatment option for patients with life-limiting illnesses. With its emphasis on pain management, symptom control, and psychosocial support, palliative care can improve the quality of life for patients and reduce the cost of medical services. The first phase of the project involves a review of the 2016 data on medical schools in the US and their offering of graduate education in palliative care. Previous data compiled by myself and Dr. Elzbieta Sikorska-Simmons from a project submitted to the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) in 2013 will be utilized. The final phase involves proving causation for the lack of training offered in the field of palliative care. This will be accomplished by conducting a randomized experiment. A questionnaire that will be provided to medical schools that will allow them to address the potential reasons why their school does not offer or emphasize on training in this particular field. By identifying the cause, this could help to explain and possibly bring to light the reasons why students do not take a more active interest in careers in palliative care.