The Professionalism e-Frontier: How Are We Teaching Psychiatry Residents to Navigate Pitfalls and Privileges of Online Presence?

Juntira Laothavorn, M.D.[1], Marika Wrzosek, M.D. [1], Ryan Finkenbine, M.D. [1], Mirjana Jojic, M.D. [2], Isheeta Zalpuri, M.D. [3]

1 University of IL College of Medicine at Peoria 2 New York-Presbyterian: Hospital of Columbia and Cornell Universities 3 Stanford University School of Medicine Lucile Packard Children's Hospital

University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria
Stanford School of Medicine — Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford
NewYork-Presbyterian — The University Hospital of Columbia and Cornell
Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons

Practice Gap

Despite various guidelines (AADPRT, AMA, FSMB), little data exist on how psychiatry residency programs incorporate education on social media and internet professionalism into curricula.

Introduction

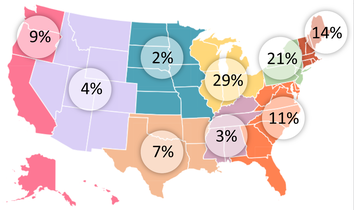
- 87% of physicians use social networking sites for personal purposes; 67% use the sites professionally.
- ACGME identifies specific milestones related to online professionalism in the professionalism and interpersonal communication skills subcompetencies.
- Several professional organizations (AADPRT/AMA/FSMB) have published guidelines to address online professionalism.
- AADPRT Taskforce developed a curriculum for teaching professionalism and the internet.
- Our objective was to understand if and how adult psychiatry residency programs have integrated e-professionalism teaching into training.
- We hypothesized that
  - Most programs do not have a formal curriculum specifically targeted for online professionalism.
  - Those that do have a formal curriculum mostly use AADPRT guidelines.

Method

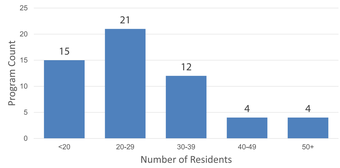
- 310 program directors and coordinators representing 180 adult psychiatry residency programs were invited to complete an anonymous IRB exempt online survey.
- FREIDA was used to collect contact information for the programs.
- Each program was requested to complete one survey within two weeks; two reminder emails were sent in the interim.
- Survey design: each survey had two demographic questions followed by eight to ten questions (depending on respondent's answers) about e-professionalism. The questions were written to gather data about online professionalism training.

Results

Demographic of Respondents



Program Size



180 ❤ | Comments

🗨 56 programs out of 180 programs invited completed the survey (31.1%).

🗨 This represents the education of 1523 residents nationwide

Formal e-Professionalism Education for Residents

Time Spent

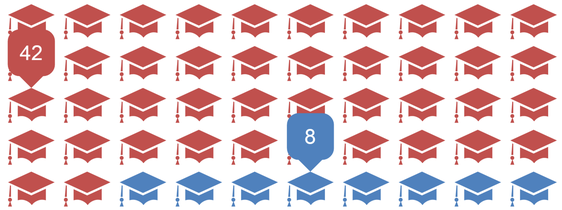
Frequency of Residents' Education

Designated e-Professionalism Contact

50 ❤ | Comments

🗨 Programs also identified the Program Coordinator, Department Chair, and other faculty members as people residents can talk to about e-professionalism.

84% of respondents have no formal curriculum in place.

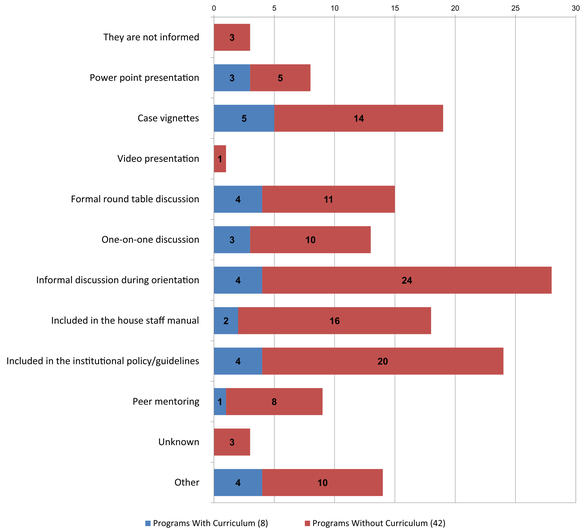


Out of 8 programs with curricula...

8 ❤ | Comments

🗨 "We are desperate for a model curriculum to teach this area to our residents."

How Are Residents Informed About Online Professionalism?



50 ❤ | Comments

🗨 "Malpractice attorney comes to present didactic to all four years of residents."

Trending

16% of respondents (8) reported at least 1 incident involving e-professionalism that resulted in disciplinary action.
Only 3 out of those 8 programs made changes to their curricula in response to it.

8 ❤ | Comments

🗨 "Hospital policy changed and seminar began."

🗨 "We added a lecture in the curriculum regarding professionalism and ethics regarding online media."

Discussion

- Results supported our hypotheses that most programs do not have a formal e-professionalism curriculum, and those that do use AADPRT guidelines.
- Technology and social trends may have outpaced training, as evidenced by disciplinary action due to online professionalism breaches.
- Despite not having a formal curriculum, most programs are educating their residents in various ways about e-professionalism. Notable modalities include presentation by a malpractice attorney, professional seminars, and integration into journal club.
- Self-selection may bias results, as some programs may have been more likely to complete a survey due to interest in this issue.
- Future work should include ongoing collaboration so that the next generation of psychiatrists, the majority of whom are digital natives, can navigate an ever-present online influence while upholding the ethics of a field where privacy is paramount.

References

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- DeJong S, Benjamin S, Anzia J et al: Curriculum on Professionalism and the Internet in Psychiatry, 2011; Retrieved October 6, 2014 from http://www.aadprt.org

Contact

✉ mwrzos1@uic.edu ✉ juntira.laothavorn@unitypoint.org