

Let's Talk About It: A Bipartisan Approach to Resident Health Policy Education

Asheen Zariat, MD,¹ Jacqueline Fitton, DO, MSTP,¹ Ali Rizvi, MD,¹ Shikha Bhatia, MD, MPH,¹
Karthik Shankar, DO,¹ Kevin Taffe, MD, PhD,¹ Molly Fisher, MD, MS¹

¹ Department of Medicine, Allegheny Health Network, Pittsburgh, PA



Allegheny
Health Network

Introduction

- Health policy education is crucial for residents to become effective systems-based practitioners in today's complex healthcare environment.
- Graduate Medical Education (GME) level health policy education typically involves lectures, group discussions, and advocacy efforts, although it lacks pedagogic guidelines and widespread implementation
- Taking a bipartisan approach, or “a desire for increased civility in democratic deliberation,” to health policy discussions has not been examined in a GME setting
- We examine the creation of an extracurricular bipartisan health policy interest group at our Internal Medicine (IM) program

Objective: Improving the knowledge, attitude, and skills of IM residents and attendings in discussing policy topics through a bipartisan lens

Methods

- Residents founded an extracurricular discussion group
- IM Residents and core faculty were invited to monthly meetings regarding various health policy topics
- Topics were researched and presented by an interested resident with input from members with policy backgrounds
- At monthly meetings (via Zoom), an interactive lecture format was followed by moderated group discussions
- Resident moderator asked questions to group to examine multiple partisan and non-partisan viewpoints
- Resident moderator ensured discussion was based on the principles of bipartisanship

Goals/Results

- Evaluation is still ongoing
- Success of goals will be assessed with pre- and post-meeting surveys with a Likert scoring system (1=Strongly Disagree through, 5 = Strongly Agree)
- Knowledge will be assessed specifically regarding the meeting's topic
- Attitude-based questions will be explored as below:
 1. I believe that understanding topics from a bipartisan point of view is important.
 2. I have an opinion on [topic].
 3. I feel knowledgeable enough about [topic] to discuss with people who may disagree with me
 4. I am comfortable expressing an opinion on policy in a setting where the opinion of others may be different from my own.
 5. I believe hearing from multiple viewpoints will change my opinions on [topic].

Conclusion

We created a novel bipartisan health policy interest group at our IM program. Through this group, we hope to create opportunities to disagree with colleagues in a protected environment, increase nuanced understandings of policy topics, and ultimately build advocacy skills that reflect the reality of policy making.

References

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