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