

## Curricular Innovation

### ***‘Single Online Resource Simplifies Surgical Resident Education’***

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**Problem:** Resource overload overwhelms time constrained surgical residents impeding efficient learning. Multiple resources are available with proposed curricula; however, these platforms vary in reliability (i.e. links do not always work, resources out of date) and user-friendliness (i.e. ease of navigation). In addition to online resources, there are multiple textbooks, podcasts, and video resources available. Residents looking to study every day spend a significant amount of time looking for reliable resources and often run out of time to review what they find. One website that is accessible on all platforms (i.e. cell phone, computer at work and home) containing reliable, up-to-date, user-friendly information is lacking from surgical education.

**Program Objectives:** For the 2019-2020 academic year, we sought to create a platform that was readily available to general surgery residents containing up-to-date, useable, reliable resources.

**Description of Program:** Our Assistant Program Director works with an education committee composed of senior residents to create our curriculum. The committee creates goals and objectives for weekly didactics, handpicks resources (both written and audiovisual), and collaborates with attending physicians to review advanced topics. Our website has six main sections – those specific to our curriculum will be highlighted below. It was made using WordPress, a popular web content management system.

The residency section contains a calendar outlining presenters and weekly topics according to the Surgical Council on Resident Education (SCORE) curriculum. Outlines include a SCORE module, textbook chapter, one learning objective for each resident year, and an audiovisual resource. Our education committee vets every module, chapter, and audiovisual resource. SCORE topics are assigned to residents (PGY 3-5) with careful attention to choose topics interesting to those residents. The calendar is completed before the start of the academic year. Materials presented are made immediately available on the website.

We also created anatomy and skills training sections targeting multiple learning styles and preparation for Fundamentals of Laparoscopic and Endoscopic Surgery.

The final section of our website focuses on the American Board of Surgery In-Training Exam (ABSITE). It includes study guides and review presentations. Lastly, it includes a sample study schedule organizing selections from a review text, question bank, and audio resource so residents complete review of all three resources before the ABSITE.

**Evaluation/Assessment:** General surgery residents (PGY 2-5) completed an online, voluntary survey with a 70% (16/23) response rate. 94% (n=15) used the website within the last year and 67% (n =10) access it on a weekly basis. All respondents reported the website improved their satisfaction with basic science education curriculum and 93% (n=14) reported it decreased the time they spent looking for educational resources. Residents provided feedback comments regarding the website and their responses were all positive.

**Conclusions and Lessons Learned:** An online platform with hand-picked resources facilitates efficient, personalized education for time-constrained surgical residents.