Adventures in Didactic Curriculum (Re) Design: Systems Thinking for Core Topics
Grall K, Nelson J / Regions Hospital, Health Partners Institute, St. Paul, MN

Background: The Residency Review Committee for Emergency Medicine requires 5 hours per week of didactic learning. Often lectures are given sporadically without consideration for targeted learners’ needs. Learning can be suboptimal and contextual goals and objectives unclear. Many undergraduate medical institutions have transitioned curriculum into system-based blocks with excellent educational results.

Educational Objectives: We redesigned our didactic curriculum to repeat on an 18-month cycle and organized it into intensive systems-based blocks (Respiratory, Neuro, GI etc.) assigning a “Topic Guru” from our Core Faculty. Our objective was to create a deliberate didactic curriculum that examines a specific system from multiple viewpoints. A secondary goal was ongoing engagement of our Core Faculty into the didactic curriculum.

Curricular Design: We designed an 18-month repeating curriculum based on physiologic systems. Topic Gurus were notified approximately 3 weeks in advance of their upcoming month and responsibilities. Repeating curricular elements included:

- Distributed reading and podcast / blogs/videos
- Core Topic discussion session using active learning / Flipped Classroom
- Core Topic Review Session
- Ask the Expert Q and A Session
- Emerging Issues / Advance Topic Session
- Pharmacology / Quality / Procedure (PQR) Rounds
- Regions RAP (Monthly Review of Podcasts, Blogs, Videos) or Journal Club

Impact/Effectiveness: Bi-monthly meetings held with Topic Gurus to assess barriers to implementation, including difficulty scheduling outside speakers and understanding new recurring curricular elements. These barriers are less intrusive with each passing month. Overall curriculum changes have been extremely well received by both our residents and Topic Gurus based on conference feedback. Future goals are to further examine impact on our learners.

10 After Action Report: Reflective Practice Beyond the Core Curriculum
Erogul M, Schiller J / Maimonides Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY

Background: The sprawling core curriculum of emergency medicine leaves little time in the didactic schedule for reflective practice and attention to the topics outside the umbrella of medical knowledge, patient care and procedural skills. To that end, our ED has instituted “After Action Report,” a yearlong longitudinal thread to encourage residents to think and reflect on their practice. Sample topics for AAR include professional boundaries, working in a medical system with healthcare disparities, addressing practical ethical quandaries in the ER, dealing with inter-professional conflict, intrapersonal awareness in the stressful clinical environment, the hidden curriculum of emergency medicine, etc. The sessions emphasize reflecting on one’s actual practice and the lived experience of being an emergency physician. The goal, broadly defined, is professional development and development of humanistic values. We believe this curriculum also supports resident wellness.

Educational Objectives: At the close of this academic year, our residents are expected to:

- Maintain proper professional boundaries with the patient and within the medical team.
- Recognize and work through common ethical dilemmas that take place in the ED.
- Foster intrapersonal awareness in the stressful clinical environment.
- Develop skills to identify and respond to emotionally driven conflict.
- Acknowledge and resolve contentious behavior between colleagues, departments, and other staff.
- Recognize the reality of healthcare disparities in medicine and formulate a healthy internal narrative about encountering these disparities.
- Effectively analyze and participate in effective