ROAR: Resident Ovation and Appreciation Rewards, on the Path to Wellness in Emergency Medicine

Rainey J, Klyce V, Neugarten C, Chien J, Williams S, Fukumoto K, Mahadevan S/Stanford/Kaiser Emergency Medicine Residency Program, Stanford, CA; El Camino Hospital, Mountain View, CA

Background: Residency is challenging: physically, emotionally, and mentally. Numerous studies cite burnout rates amongst residents as high as 76%. Research also demonstrates that physicians who are primed to feel emotionally positive are more effective, ultimately providing higher-quality patient care. With this goal in mind, development of a wellness curriculum for residents could potentially mitigate burnout during training, promote practices that build personal and professional resiliency, and lead to a long and fulfilling career.

Educational Objectives: Drawing on research recognizing the benefits of expressing gratitude, we have developed the Resident Ovation and Appreciation Rewards, or “ROAR,” pilot program. We devised a system of routine resident recognition by peers, attendings and other ED staff for the, “small but meaningful” things we do every day that often go unrecognized. Our goal was to support the development of a culture of gratitude within our department in our efforts to improve wellness.

Curricular Design: Prior to implementing the ROAR program, we administered an anonymous 5-point survey to our PGY 1-3 EM residents to obtain baseline data on their sense of wellness. We then re-surveyed these same residents at 6-months and 1 year to evaluate the impact of ROAR.

We placed blank ROAR forms throughout our department and also created a web-based version of the form. Completed forms were collated, tabulated and presented to the individual residents each month. For each ROAR written or received, residents earned credits for domestic services, such as meal delivery and home cleaning.

Impact/Effectiveness: The departmental response to ROAR has been tremendous, as approximately 370 ROARs have been written in the first year of the program. Our preliminary survey results, based on two classes of residents, reveal a 9.7% improvement in self-reported overall wellness scores from pre-ROAR to 1-year post-intervention. Surveyed residents also noted an 8.3% increase in the positive effect of ROARs compared to their initial expectations. Based on the preliminary results, we plan to continue this program as well as explore other similar well-being initiatives.

Curricular Innovations Oral Presentations

1 Cricothyrotomy: An Inexpensive Training Model

Malik E, Deutchman M/University of Colorado School of Medicine, Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora, CO

Background: Cricothyrotomy is a rarely used procedure that requires operator competence in critical situations. Trainees are rarely exposed to this procedure in the clinical setting, which necessitates simulated practice to prevent a potentially negative impact on patient care. Tightening residency budgets often make the use of expensive, commercially-available models cost-prohibitive. Here, we present a re-usable, inexpensive task trainer to address this gap in medical training.

Educational Objectives:
• To present an inexpensive task trainer for the education and practice of cricothyrotomy
• To compare the effectiveness of teaching with this constructed model against sheep trachea

Curricular Design: Ten task trainers were constructed from a Styrofoam head, ribbed garden hose with a cut hole for the cricothyroid space, electrical tape as the cricothyroid membrane, zip-ties to signify the laryngeal prominence and cricoid cartilage, and foam sheets with Tegaderm to represent the subcutaneous layers (Fig. 1). Twenty second-year medical students were given a 10 minute lecture on the standard, surgical cricothyrotomy and then randomly divided into two groups for practice on either the constructed model or the sheep trachea. After 10-15 minutes of practice, students were given a pristine airway of the same model type and evaluated on their ability to correctly perform a cricothyrotomy using a procedural checklist.