

Disaster Response Curriculum

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UMMS Capstone for Impact

Branch: Procedures Based Care

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Project Summary

Previous to the project, UMMS medical students received no training in disaster response. Literature has shown this to be a clear gap in education that often is not fully elucidated until it is too late – that is to say, a disaster event occurs and medical aid is required. We aimed to educate medical students on the basics of disaster response so that they better understand how they may contribute in the event of a mass casualty event. We also hoped to incorporate medical students into the current mass casualty incident protocol, so that students may provide assistance in an event affecting the University of Michigan Hospital System and the surrounding area. Because fourth year medical students are already familiar with UMHS, we will primarily direct our curriculum and policies toward these senior students. As of now, we completed the curriculum and established a student group that will continue to hold trainings and lectures.

Action Items/Outcome

Objectives:

- Provide a basic understanding of disaster response systems.
- Facilitate a hands-on activity in triaging in a resource limited setting.
- Conduct pre/post curriculum self-assessment to evaluate the effect of the curriculum on student knowledge.
- Present findings at a medical education conference and publish results in a medical education journal.
- Create a self-sustaining curriculum that will be passed on to future classes.

Outcomes:

- Curriculum occurred on 10/13/17 as part of the Branch Friday curriculum
- Curriculum included 1 hour of didactic lecture by Dr. Stewart Wang, esteemed professor and coordinator of the Michigan Burn Mass Casualty Program and Dr. Stuart Bradin of the Emergency Management Leadership. This was followed by an hour-long hands-on triage activity that was designed by a team of students.

-Surveys using Likert scale assessment of student knowledge and comfort with responding in a disaster situation were distributed before and after this course. Results are currently being tabulated.

-(Aspirational, in process) Students further interested in disaster response will receive further training in the UMHS disaster response protocols to serve as medical student leaders in the event of an actual disaster.

-(Aspirational, in process) Fourth year students will be written into the Mass Casualty Incident protocols and will have a designated place to organize to provide assistance to other medical personnel.

-(Aspirational, in process) Results will be written up in abstract form and presented at a medical education conference. Time permitting, a manuscript will be drafted for submission to a medical education journal.

Conclusion/Reflection

Change on the institutional level can feel like it happens at a glacial pace. It is important to focus on a few deliverables (e.g. having a curriculum, creating a student group, and ensuring that the curriculum continues the following year). Try not to get lost in the details, and delegate liberally. Provide junior students the opportunity to lead and have ownership of the project. Acknowledge successes, give credit generously, and constantly strive for improvement.