Mind the Gap: People-with-Disabilities Education

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Curricular time devoted to disability-specific education is essential in closing the inequity gap of people with disabilities in medicine and society.

**Results:** Table 1. People with Disabilities Education Series Evaluation Dataa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement or Question</th>
<th>Pre-Series $M$ (SD)</th>
<th>Post-Series $M$ (SD)</th>
<th>$p$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How knowledgeable do you feel about inequalities in healthcare for people with disabilities?b</td>
<td>2.3 (0.9)</td>
<td>3.4 (0.8)</td>
<td>&lt;.001d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How knowledgeable do you feel about inequalities in society for people with disabilities?b</td>
<td>2.2 (0.9)</td>
<td>3.1 (0.9)</td>
<td>&lt;.001d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How confident do you feel in your ability to tailor your care (or treatment plan) to the needs of patients with disabilities?c</td>
<td>2.2 (0.9)</td>
<td>3.3 (0.7)</td>
<td>&lt;.001d</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Results Continued:** Residents felt more knowledgeable about inequities in health care ($M = 3.4$) and society ($M = 3.1$) for people with disabilities. Additionally, residents felt more confident ($M = 3.3$) in their ability to create and tailor treatment plans for patients with disabilities. In the post-series survey, residents rated the usefulness content of this series in relation to their residency education of this series as having a positive ($M = 3.6$), valuable impact on their resident education.

**Discussion:** Medical education of all types should consider devoting additional time to education around people with disabilities. Postgraduate physicians lack the knowledge and confidence to adequately treat and support patients with disabilities. However, based on our results, devoting time to disability-specific education can help physicians become more knowledgeable and feel more comfortable providing appropriate care to their patients with disabilities. This curriculum framework may inspire others to develop similar programs throughout our community bringing greater awareness, better health equity, and better care to the community we serve.

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*a10 residents completed the pre- and post-series surveys.
*bRated on a 4-point Likert Scale (1= Not at all knowledgeable, 4= Very knowledgeable)
*cRated on a 4-point Likert Scale (1= Not confident at all, 4= Very confident)
*dDenotes statistical significance ($p < .05$)