

development. Understanding these requirements could better equip incoming residents to choose programs offering strong support and resources for conducting meaningful research and could provide programs with a shared foundation from which to develop and enhance their scholarly initiatives. Emphasizing the value of interdisciplinary collaboration and dissemination of findings in various venues, as advocated by ACGME, can also enhance students' preparedness for engaging in impactful scholarship during their residencies.

Interest in Research-Related CV Building is Very High

The vast majority of respondents (90.3%, $n = 56$) showed a strong interest in learning how to build their resumes through research experiences, recognizing the potential impact on their competitiveness for residency placements.

Willingness to Attend a Research Pathways Workshop and Preferences for Workshop Content is Substantial

The interest in educational interventions was underscored by the fact that 77.4% of respondents ($n = 48$) indicated they would attend a workshop focused on advancing their careers in family medicine through research. This demonstrates an appetite for structured learning opportunities to better understand research pathways. The survey's open-ended responses revealed several key preferences for workshop content among participants such as guidance on effectively managing their time and identifying resources to support their research endeavors. They sought information on clinical research pathways and the importance of establishing mentorship relationships. Participants emphasized the desire to receive practical, accessible guidance, particularly for those who are new to research or have a primarily clinical focus. Additionally, there was interest in exploring specific areas such as health services research, clinical trials, and strategies for balancing clinical responsibilities with research activities.

Implications for Research Education in Medical Training

The findings from our needs assessment illuminate possible opportunities for enhancing research education within medical school curricula and residency programs. By addressing the gaps identified, we can equip students with the competence and confidence needed to actively engage in research and leverage it for career advancement. Potential strategies include:

Curricular Reforms

Integrating structured research education within medical school curricula can lay a strong foundation for future family medicine physicians. Educators could provide a more comprehensive understanding of research methodologies, potential career pathways, and the real-world applications of research than is currently common.

Mentorship and Research Pathway Guidance Programs

Creating formalized mentorship networks with established research teams would provide learners with hands-on guidance, helping them navigate the challenges of initiating and maintaining research projects. Experienced mentors could play a pivotal role in demystifying research processes, from developing research questions to achieving publication.

Develop Workshops and Interactive Sessions

Workshops can serve as pivotal platforms where interested learners gain practical insights and skills related to research. Through interactive sessions, medical students and residents can learn about study design, data analysis, and dissemination of findings, making the research process more accessible and less daunting.

Conclusion: Engaging the Next Generation of Researchers in Family Medicine

The insights from the survey suggest a strong latent interest in research among medical students interested in family medicine, though it is tempered by a lack of knowledge and clear pathways. Enhancing research education and providing tangible experiences may empower the next generation of family medicine physicians. By investing in robust research training and mentorship—a process the discipline has begun through the new strategic plan for research—we can ensure these trainees are well-prepared to contribute significantly to the evolution of family medicine, ultimately improving health care outcomes and building our own evidence base for primary care practice.

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