Underutilization of ASPS On-line Resident Resources: The Residents Respond

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02/23/2020
Disclosure

• Nothing to disclose
Background

- Until 2019 online educational curriculum was linked to ASPS and labeled PSEN (plastic surgery education network)
- In 2019 the PSEN was rebranded and transformed to REC (Resident Education Center) under the ASPS website
- Challenges have been encountered from both the resident and program director side
Background

• During the ASPS The Meeting 2019 EdNet Editorial Committee
  • Highlighted some of the issues encountered
  • Decision to have a deeper understanding of these ongoing issues
  • Statement needed to summarize issues and their resolution
Background

• ASPS Ednet Mission Statement
  • Serves as the complete online education portal for ASPS members, residents, and the global plastic surgery community from residency to retirement.
  • The learning platform includes a core curriculum composed of instructional courses, procedural videos, case reports, and self-assessment tools.

• Resident Education Curriculum
  • Joint program between ACAPS and ASPS
  • Offers more than 90 self-assessment modules for practicing surgeons and residents alike.
  • Each module provides journal article readings, presentations, videos and tests that cover all aspects of the specialty.
  • Program Directors can review transcripts to track resident progress
What is Resident Education?

- General plastic surgery knowledge (Neligan, Grabb & Smith’s, Janis, Parkland Papers, etc…)
- Surgical skills and Operative knowledge
- Written and Oral Boards preparations/presentations
- Research meetings and Conference presentations
- Didactics and Morning conferences
- Preparation for yearly in-service exams
What is the REC used for?

- Polled co-residents at UCSD, UNLV, Mayo AZ, University of Colorado, University of Utah, University of New Mexico, UTSW, Hofstra, and Case Western
  - REC is referred to as ASPS, PSEN, and Core curriculum
  - REC is utilized as a topics guide for general plastic surgery education
  - Rarely used for in-service preparation
  - In-service preparation consists of CSAT, old in-service questions, and associated readings of choice
Objective

• As a result of the ASPS The Meeting 2019 EdNet Editorial Committee
  • Create an initial survey to assess the utilization of REC among residents
  • Assess the issues encountered by residents and program directors
Methods

• Discussion with ACAPS for an official survey to be sent to residency programs

• Decided to create a small survey that was sent to residents at select residency programs

• Preliminary results regarding the utilization and issues of the REC have been collected

• Survey consisted of a simple 7 questions questionnaire
  • 6 questions having a yes/no answer
  • 7th question having a format of an open ended question
Results

- More than 50% of respondents have not heard of the REC or do not know how to access it
- More than 80% of respondents did not use the resource in the past month
- Most residents would appreciate a search tab within each section and would like to see more subsections
- The biggest complaint has been difficulty with navigating the content or not knowing how to access it
- Difficulties encountered with inconsistencies regarding links to content, videos, and search tabs
- Program directors have issues with navigating the new system, assigning tasks, and tracking progress
Discussion

• Preliminary results from a small number of respondents and included only some of the residency programs

• Most residents are aware of the ASPS guided curriculum, however there is a disconnect between the knowledge of its existence and its usage

• Response confirms that further investigation and perhaps a more comprehensive and thorough survey will need to be created
Limitations

• Survey sent to only a number of residency programs
• So far minimal response secondary to an unofficial survey
• Most responders are at PGY1-3 level
Conclusion

- Residents are aware of the general ASPS education modules that guide their education
- The disconnect exists between the knowledge of its existence and utilization
- Those that do utilize it have difficulty navigating within the system and have difficulty finding content
- A more thorough survey may need to be created and sent out to all residency programs in the country
Thank you!