

Development of an Interprofessional Scholarship Advisory Group (iSAG)

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Background

At an academic medical center with growing expectations for scholarship, those who are focused on medical education research may encounter hurdles to publish. The challenges to publish in a peer review journal impact promotion, funding and research opportunities.

As part of the newly founded Teaching Excellence Academy for Collaborative Healthcare (TEACH), a focused initiative was to support those who are interested in medical education scholarship. The purpose of the group is to serve as a support for education research and scholarship, provide a collaborative peer-mentoring environment in education research and improve the production of scholarly outputs.

Methods

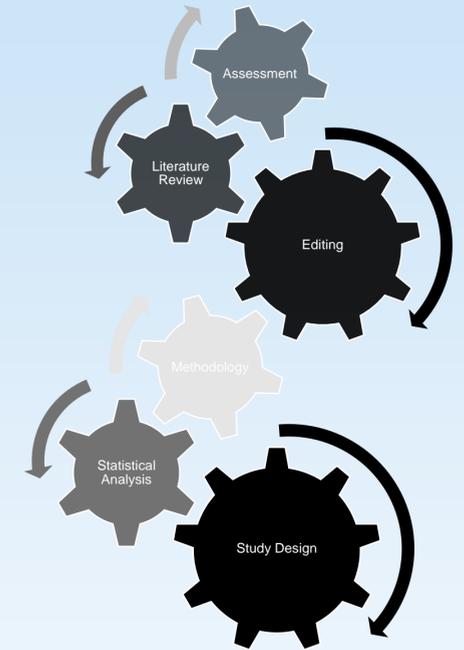
- The Interprofessional Scholarship Advisory Group (iSAG): a small multidisciplinary group of individuals from across the health system representing various departments (veterinary school, basic science education, library, faculty development) and institutions (VTCSOM, JCHS, VT).
- Likeminded individuals work together to promote education scholarship.
- Comprised of professionals with complementary talents and skills that support the scholarly needs of the group.
- Meets monthly to discuss projects that are in the works or being developed, scholarship hang-ups, or brainstorm new scholarly ideas.
- Everything discussed during meetings is confidential.
- Meetings do not exceed one-hour in respect of participants' schedules.
- Agenda items are collected electronically prior to each meeting.

Results

- In early 2017, iSAG was founded by eleven participants who shared an interest for medical education and medical education scholarship.
- Over the course of several months, iSAG members have gathered to discuss potential medical education scholarship ideas and provide guidance on current projects.
- iSAG as a community of educators implemented active peer collaboration that benefits from a diverse interest and skill set.
- The small meeting group size allows for a comfortable environment which promotes peer support and collegial exchange of ideas.
- This community of practice has evolved in the short few months since conception to accommodate busy schedules and allow remote participation options.



Representation of Complementary iSAG Skills



Discussion

iSAG has provided a viable model for developing a community of practice and fostering scholarship for health professions educators at our institution.

In the few months since its inception, iSAG has proven itself a successful model for providing support and encouraging the scholarly productivity of its members. In summary the project has experienced a successful launch and has been an inspiration for its members.