1.0 Toronto UME retreat

The CSOHNS undergraduate medical education group will be holding our 3rd bi-annual retreat in Toronto on October 19, 2013. Previous retreats were held in 2009 (London), and 2011 (Ottawa). Due to the success of these events, I committed to holding them on a q 2 yr basis rotating between different centres. Prior retreat themes included eLearning module development, national minimum standards objectives, and clerkship. The Toronto retreat will expand upon those themes, and move forward with collaborative projects in learning module development and research. Participants will include members of the UME committee (undergraduate directors across Canada) as well as those with a keen interest in educational scholarship as it pertains to UME. I would like to formally thank Dr. Al Chiodo (U of Toronto), who is taking the lead with retreat planning.

2.0 CSOHNS website and eLearning modules

The original intent of this section of the website was to expand the repository of e-learning modules and links to Canadian ENT centres with learning resources for medical students. A number of barriers have been encountered which has led to a modest number of modules – themes include technical challenges, intellectual property concerns, and paradoxically, the rapid advancement of mobile technology. There will be links to existing YouTube videos on ENT history (U of Saskatchewan, Peter Spafford), ENT physical examination (Western), and pediatric foreign body (UBC, Jeff Ludemann). On a positive note, I am delighted to see the expansion of the iLearnENT project (U Ottawa, Scott Kohlert, Laurie McLean and Matt Bromwich), which has a number of learning modules created with input from multiple Canadian centres, as well as the advancement of simulation. To name a specific example, our group is planning on a multicentre trial investigating the use of the Otosim (an otoscopy simulator, created by Paolo Campisi, U Toronto), in medical school curricula.

3.0 Collaboration in UME

It is clear to me that interest in medical education in our Society has increased significantly over the past several years, especially in UME. This elevated profile has resulted in increased visibility of our specialty in medical schools across Canada and has been a positive force in promoting further collaborative educational innovations and research productivity. Although the specific tasks taken on by the UME committee have evolved over time, the mandate of the group remains a constant positive force, thanks to the continued support of the CSOHNS.

Respectfully submitted.

Kevin Fung, MD, FRCS(C), FACS
Associate Professor – Department of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery
Western University, London, Canada

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