

E-Mailed Conference Synopses as a Tool for Resident and Faculty Development

Elizabeth E. LaSalle, MS,^{*,1} Shima C. Fitzgibbons, MD, MEd,^{†,1} and A. Alfred Chahine, MD^{‡,1}

^{*}Georgetown University School of Medicine, Washington, DC; [†]Department of Surgery, MedStar Georgetown University Hospital, Washington, DC; and [‡]Division of Pediatric Surgery, Children's National Health System, Washington, DC

OBJECTIVE: This study aims to investigate the utility and success of daily conference synopses emails (“Daily Dispatches”) sent to surgical attending physicians, fellows, and residents to foster resident and faculty development.

DESIGN: Emails were distributed by the surgical residency program director (PD), summarizing each day of a surgical conference. Two prospective electronic surveys were administered to surgical residents, fellows, and attending surgeons to evaluate the value of this Daily Dispatch method.

SETTING: Institutional; Medstar Georgetown University Hospital, Department of Surgery, Washington, DC.

PARTICIPANTS: Email synopses were sent to surgical attendings, fellows and residents. Pilot survey was distributed to 60 participants, main survey sent to 74 participants.

RESULTS: The response rate for the pilot survey was 41.6% (25/60). When asked about the mode of delivery, 96% of respondents wanted to maintain the email medium when compared to a lecture, paper handout, or the use of social media. The response rate for the main survey was 31.1% (23/74). Almost all (91%) respondents reported reading the emails. Within this group, 70% “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that the emails were useful. Furthermore, 90% reported learning “at least one new thing” and 80% confirmed these “emails provide meaningful content they would not otherwise obtain”.

CONCLUSION: Individualized daily synopsis emails highlighting relevant content provided meaningful information from conferences to non-attendees. The emails were well received and useful. Daily Dispatches meet an important need in dissemination of information traditionally gathered only by the rate-limiting step of conference attendance. (J Surg Ed ■■■■-■■■. © 2017 Association of Program Directors in Surgery. Published by Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.)

KEY WORDS: surgical education, faculty, communication, assessment in medical education, graduate medical education, electronic mail

COMPETENCIES: Practiced Based Learning and Improvement, Interpersonal Skills and Communication

INTRODUCTION

Medical conferences, be they focused on clinical practice, education, or research, are valuable opportunities for professional development. Although sending physician faculty members to conferences may be ideal, it is neither financially feasible nor logistically realistic for all faculty to consistently attend a rich and varied series of meetings.¹ There exists a need for improved mechanisms for relevant, cost-effective information dissemination following these academic conferences. In addition, the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) has mandated that training programs have faculty development as part of their curriculum, specifically, participation of faculty in activities relating to resident evaluation and teaching.

Our study seeks to address the above challenges by evaluating the use of daily summary e-mails sent to surgical attending physicians, fellows, and residents from an attendee at a surgical education conference. The

Prior abstract presentation: (1) Thinking out of the box luncheon, surgical education week: April 13, 2016.

(2) 7th Annual Student/Resident/Fellow Research Forum and Competition Breakfast. Joint Annual Meeting of American College of Surgeons, DC and Virginia Chapters, Virginia Surgical Society: Association of Women Surgeons Joint Breakfast: April 30, 2016.

Correspondence: Inquiries to Elizabeth E. LaSalle, MS, Georgetown University School of Medicine, Washington, DC; e-mail: eel36@georgetown.edu

¹ c/o Shima C. Fitzgibbons, 3800 Reservoir Road NW Pasquerilla Healthcare Center, Fourth Floor, Washington, DC 20007.

e-mails include snippets of educational material gathered at the conference and disseminated to the faculty and trainees at the home institution. Distribution of these snippets was meant to further the impact of a single attendee at a conference, extending the distribution of relevant, concise pieces of information gathered during the conference to colleagues not in attendance. The goal of this study is to evaluate the impact of this medium of information dissemination to physicians interested in the conference's area of focus, but unable to attend in person.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Daily conference synopsis e-mails ("Daily Dispatches") have traditionally been distributed to the surgical faculty and residents within our residency program during several academic conferences, including surgical education week (SEW), a combined meeting of the Association for Surgical Education and the Association of Program Directors in Surgery. These e-mails have been created and distributed by the general surgery program director (PD) from 2011 to 2015. The decision to distribute information from SEW was an attempt by the PD to specifically improve awareness of educational issues including residency training and faculty development, pertaining to the surgery department. The "Daily Dispatches" were sent to all the faculty, residents and recent graduates of the MedStar Georgetown University Hospital General Surgery Program as well as to the faculty and fellows of the Department of Surgery at Children's National Health System, the home institution of the PD.

Pilot Survey

A preliminary anonymous electronic survey to identify the best e-mail format was sent in March 2015 to all individuals ($N = 60$) who routinely received "Daily Dispatches." The survey, distributed via Survey Monkey, collected pilot data on respondent demographics, perceived utility of the e-mails, changes in teaching and patient care as a result of receiving the "Daily Dispatches," and feedback for future dissemination. We used a Likert and modified-Likert scale to score responses. Results from this initial survey were used to modify the Daily Dispatches before SEW 2015 (April 2015).

Survey

A second anonymous electronic survey was sent to recipients of the 2015 SEW "Daily Dispatches," including residents, fellows, and attending surgeons ($N = 74$). 14 surgeons, fellows and recent fellows graduates from Children's National Medical Center (CNMC) were added to this

second survey, as they too received the "Daily Dispatches." This survey was sent out in October 2015, 6 months after the SEW conference and "Daily Dispatches." The second survey repeated questions from the first and added the following: (1) Did you learn at least 1 new thing from the e-mails? (2) Do you feel these e-mails provide meaningful content that you want, but would not otherwise obtain? (3) Would you consider sharing similar content synopses from conferences you attend? Responses to both surveys were collected in Excel and reported as descriptive statistics. This study was deemed "exempt" by the Georgetown University School of Medicine Institutional Review Board. The second survey can be found in the appendices (Fig. A).

RESULTS

Pilot Survey

The response rate for the pilot survey was 41.6% (25/60). In all, 23 respondents completed the survey whereas 2 respondents completed all but the "future directions" section. All responses were included in the descriptive analysis (Table A). Responding physicians consisted of 13 attendings (52.0%), 10 residents (40.0%), and 2 fellows (8.0%), with responses from 14 (56.0%) males and 11 (44.0%) females. Most respondents were between the ages of 30 and 40 years old (32.0%). Twenty-four (96.0%) respondents reported reading the e-mails and a large majority (88%) "agreed" or "strongly agreed" that they were useful. Totally, 42.0% of respondents judged the level of detail to be "just right," whereas 50.0% reported it to be "somewhat long." Furthermore, a majority (55%) of participants would appreciate "one e-mail at the end of the conference," followed by 23% who preferred the "daily" pace of delivery. When participants were asked about an ideal method of information dissemination in a "mark all the following"-type question, 96% preferred e-mail, followed by 21.7% who preferred a lecture format, and 13% who preferred social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.).

Survey

The "Daily Dispatches" were modified based on the pilot survey and were sent during SEW 2015. The primary modification was length, which was shortened from an average of 1000 words per e-mail to an average of 269 words (Figs. B and C represent a sample of a "Daily Dispatch" from SEW 2014 and SEW 2015, respectively). The second survey was sent to 74 clinicians with a 31.1% response rate (23/74). These results are summarized in Table B. The demographics were similar to the initial survey, including 10 attending surgeons (43.5%), 10 residents (43.5%), and 3 fellows (13.0%), with 12 males

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/8834636>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/8834636>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)