

Exposing Medical Students and PGY-2 Psychiatry Residents to Psycho-oncology by Implementing a New Teaching Rotation

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BACKGROUND

Since the ACGME does not provide specific requirements for psycho-oncology, there is concern that general psychiatry residents are not well trained to treat the cancer patients they will encounter.

Morreale et al. suggest ways to target this void in training including incorporating didactic sessions on psychiatric comorbidities in cancer patients within medical education curricula and encouraging medical students interested in psychiatry to take electives in psycho-oncology.

OBJECTIVES

We aimed to follow these recommendations by creating a combined outpatient/inpatient psycho-oncology rotation.

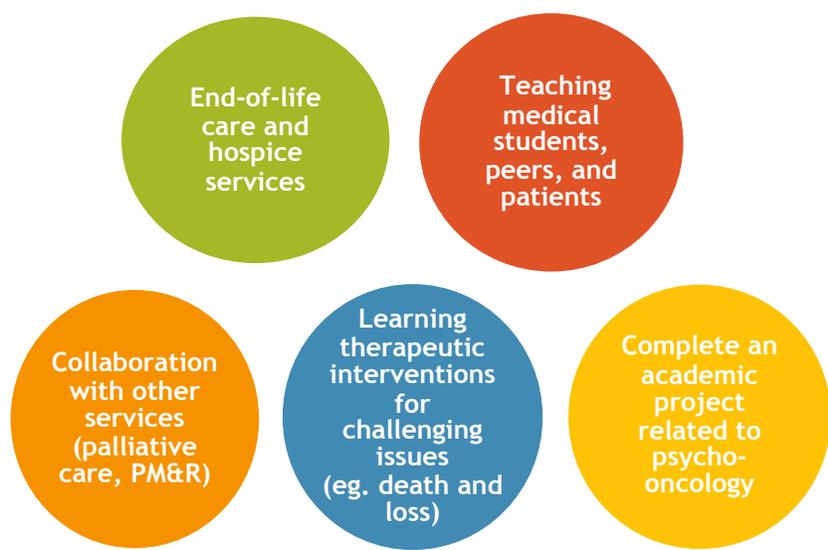
METHODS

We describe a novel one-month combined outpatient/inpatient psycho-oncology rotation established for PGY-2 psychiatry residents and third-year medical students.

- Mornings are dedicated to outpatient clinic
- Inpatient multidisciplinary rounds take place during the afternoons.

During this rotation, trainees acquire knowledge in psychopharmacology and skills regarding the assessment and management of psychiatric conditions seen in oncologic patients.

Areas of Exposure



RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

Through faculty feedback evaluations, trainees have found the rotation to be helpful in multiple aspects:

- Helpful in understanding the multi-faceted aspects of providing care to cancer patients.
- Strengthening knowledge of psychopharmacology.
- Understanding the roles of an interdisciplinary team.
- Developing teaching skills.
- Creating an interest in future careers in psycho-oncology.

In addition, trainees have also presented psycho-oncology related posters in several professional national conferences.

Exposure to psycho-oncology during medical school training and early on in general psychiatry residency allows for a positive experience in learning and career development.

REFERENCES

1 Morreale, M.K., et al. Providing Psychiatric Care for an Expanding Population of Cancer Survivors: Imperatives for Psychiatric Education and Leadership. *Acad Psychiatry*. 41, 1–3 (2017).
 2 Zimbrea PC, et al. The Educational Value of Outpatient Consultation-Liaison Rotations: A White Paper From the Academy of Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry Residency Education Subcommittee. *Psychosomatics*. 2020 Sep-Oct;61(5):436-449.