

Needs Assessment for Allergy and Immunology Curriculum for Internal Medicine and Medicine-Pediatrics Residents

C. Moore and C. Rozario *University of Rochester Medical Center, Dept. of Allergy/Immunology & Rheumatology*

Rationale: The goal was to identify high-yield allergy and immunology (A/I) topics and preferred learning methods of internal medicine and medicine-pediatrics residents, aiming to develop a new A/I clinical rotation curriculum tailored to internists at our academic medical center. We also sought feedback on the current AAAAI curriculum.

Methods: A voluntary, anonymous, 14-item online needs assessment survey was distributed to all internal medicine and medicine-pediatrics residents (n=126). The survey included multiple-choice, ranking, Likert scale, and free-text questions, focusing on identifying learning needs, evaluating the current A/I curriculum, and gathering resident feedback on A/I knowledge. Data were collected and analyzed using REDCap.

Results: Twenty-six residents (21%) completed the survey. Twenty-two were internal medicine (84.6%) residents and four (15.4%) were combined medicine & pediatrics. Seven were PGY-1, eleven were PGY-2, eight were PGY-3 and none were PGY-4. Four residents (15%) reported that they were considering a career in A/I. All residents were asked to identify their top 3 preferred learning strategies. Most residents chose high-yield quick reference sheets (69%), followed by direct patient care (65%), and problem-based learning (46%). Interactive online modules were the least preferred modality (3%). Majority of residents could allocate 30 mins per day to reviewing education materials on their own during a 2-week A/I rotation. Nearly all residents (96%) identified drug allergy, followed by angioedema (54%), anaphylaxis (46%) and asthma (46%) as topics they would like to learn more about. Most (62%) agreed that training on A/I topics was “very important” for internists. Eight residents (30%) had completed an A/I elective, but only three (37%) were aware of the current curriculum, and two (25%) had reviewed it. Those residents found the curriculum too granular and dense and preferred different learning modalities.

Conclusions: This needs assessment identified several deficiencies of our current A/I elective curriculum. Interestingly, online modules were the least preferred learning modality selected by our residents, and the current curriculum which is based on the national AAAAI curriculum, are mostly online modules and readings. As most residents agreed that it is “very important”, for internists to be trained on allergy/immunology topics, there is a need for effective teaching of these topics. Specifically, almost all of our residents would like more education on drug allergy. Other popular topics of interest included angioedema, anaphylaxis and asthma. Given this, the current curriculum may not be addressing the needs of the residents, so development of a new curriculum geared for internists is warranted. Facilitating the development of different delivery methods of the curriculum to better suit the preferred learning modalities and topics of interest of the residents may be particularly important.