

Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Regularly Scheduled Series

July 2024 – December 2024 Evaluation Data Summary

Number of survey responses	579
Response rate	69%
On a scale of Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (5), please answer the following question based on the sessions you participated in since the beginning of this academic year.	Avg Mean
I am satisfied with the quality of the presentations/case discussions in this series.	4.51
As a result of your participation in this series during the first half of this academic year:	Avg %
I plan to make a change to my health care team or my individual practice/responsibilities	31%
I made a change to my health care team or my individual practice/responsibilities	17%
I plan to make a change AND I made a change to my health care team or my individual practice/responsibilities	11%
I did not and don't plan to make any changes	41%

STRENGTHS

- **Comprehensive and Diverse Content:** Series cover a broad range of topics, including clinical, scientific, and translational research, relevant to both pediatric and primary care physicians. They addresses current guidelines, advancements, and diverse subspecialties, ensuring a well-rounded educational experience.
- **Engaging and High-Quality Presentations:** Expert speakers from various centers present information in a clear and engaging manner. Series feature knowledgeable and experienced professionals, with opportunities for Q&A and interactive discussions to enhance learning.
- **Relevance and Practicality:** The content is highly applicable to daily practice, with case discussions, practical tips, and evidence-based information aimed at improving patient care. Residents and clinicians alike gain exposure to clinically relevant material, including uncommon cases and cutting-edge topics.
- **Inclusive Learning Environment:** Open discussions, group interactions, and active participation from all levels of experience foster a collaborative atmosphere. Series encourage interaction between faculty, residents, and attendees, creating a valuable learning exchange.
- **Accessible Format:** A hybrid (virtual and in-person) format makes series easy to attend, with recorded sessions available for reference. This flexibility ensures broader access, accommodating busy schedules.
- **Focus on Modern Practices:** Series stay current by emphasizing new research, guidelines, and modern concepts in medicine. They integrate diverse perspectives, including considerations of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and Social Determinants of Health (SDOH).

- **Supportive for Resident Education:** Series provide a platform for resident trainees to hone presentation skills, engage in clinical discussions, and deepen their knowledge across a variety of specialties.
- **Interdisciplinary Approach:** The inclusion of diverse speakers and interdisciplinary perspectives enhances the overall learning experience, providing insights from different areas of expertise and promoting comprehensive care strategies.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- **Increase Collaboration and Participation:** Encourage more inter-departmental meetings and senior faculty involvement; Include more attendee-led presentations and offer speaking opportunities for junior faculty; Expand participation across different specialties, and engage more outside speakers; Provide a platform for participant suggestions to ensure content relevance.
- **Content and Relevance:** Ensure lectures are clinically relevant, focusing on high-yield, practical topics for all learning levels; Include more diverse and specific topics, such as health inequity, AI in medicine, adolescent gynecology, behavioral health, and neuro-related issues; Focus on complex clinical cases, evidence-based practice, and actionable interventions; Reduce esoteric or overly technical content and limit sociopolitical topics.
- **Session Structure and Timing:** Start sessions on time, reduce unnecessary announcements, and avoid deep dives into study articles; Shorten presentations, especially resident talks, to allow more time for discussions and interactions; Adjust session lengths and timing, with earlier or more flexible schedules to accommodate attendees; Ensure timely updates and consider including more in-person sessions.
- **Enhance Learning Materials:** Distribute presentation materials like slides and summaries after lectures; Include more references, clinical vignettes, and guidelines to support content application; Record lectures and provide access to videos for future reference and CME credit.
- **Improve Speaker Quality and Delivery:** Invite dynamic, clear speakers and ensure they maintain an appropriate pace; Ensure speakers are aligned with the audience's needs and the topics are appropriate; Engage experts and academic leaders for lectures, particularly for clinical guideline discussions.
- **Foster Interaction and Networking:** Encourage audience participation and ensure clarity in virtual interactions (e.g., repeating questions for remote attendees); Provide networking opportunities, especially for trainees to engage with lecturers; Maintain a collaborative environment with a focus on constructive educational discussions.
- **Logistical and Administrative Improvements:** Provide advanced notifications of upcoming sessions; Consider offering food and incentives for in-person attendance; Ensure proper scheduling to avoid attendance issues and conflicts; Improve access to resources like slides and PowerPoint copies after events.

PLANNED AND IMPLEMENTED CHANGES

Patient Care & Management Changes

- **Inclusivity:** Implementing a more inclusive approach, especially regarding disabilities and language barriers.
- **Guidelines Application:** Using updated clinical guidelines for patient care, including anesthesia practices, diagnostic criteria, and dosage recommendations.
- **Preoperative and Postoperative Practices:** Enhancing preoperative procedures, improving high-risk pregnancy surveillance, and updating post-surgical care (e.g., fracture management, GLP-1 agonist patients).
- **Improved Diagnostics:** Applying new diagnostic criteria and being mindful of atypical presentations and biases in test ordering.
- **Use of Novel Therapies:** Incorporating new therapies (e.g., for autoimmune diseases, obesity management) and more advanced treatments like digital pathology and pharmacogenomics.
- **Technology Integration:** Improving the use of AI tools, ultrasound, and Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS) in practice.
- **Cultural Competence:** Promoting culturally competent care, considering social determinants of health, and addressing healthcare disparities.
- **Enhanced Communication:** Improving communication both within healthcare teams and with patients, including clearer patient explanations and better use of interpreters.
- **Patient Education:** Offering more comprehensive patient education on topics discussed in grand rounds and through educational series.

Clinical Practice Enhancements

- **Skill Improvement:** Gaining expertise in areas like ultrasound-guided A-line placement, diagnostic imaging, and fracture management techniques.
- **Bias Awareness:** Becoming more aware of personal and cultural biases during evaluations and patient care decisions.
- **Standardized Protocols:** Developing standardized care protocols and improving evidence-based decision-making in clinical practice.
- **Patient Management Improvements:** Implementing updated practices in managing complex conditions (e.g., hypertension, cancer treatments, cognitive screening) and optimizing patient referrals.
- **Medication & Prescription Adjustments:** Modifying medication prescription patterns, including anti-hypertensives, and considering pharmacologic interventions for various conditions.
- **Enhanced Follow-Up Practices:** Improving follow-up for conditions like prostate cancer and high-risk pregnancies.

Team & Practice Management

- **Team Collaboration & Meetings:** Enhancing regular meetings, consultations, and collaboration within healthcare teams to discuss complicated cases and standardize care.
- **Practice Management:** Implementing more efficient practice management strategies and expanding services like abortion care and fibroid management.

- **Faculty Development:** Incorporating feedback into faculty development, offering more resources for both learners and patients, and focusing on continuous professional development.
- **Recruitment & Training:** Expanding teams by recruiting new faculty members and offering more training opportunities to improve patient care and team cohesion.

Evidence-Based and Updated Care

- **Implementation of Latest Research:** Integrating new research and literature into clinical decision-making, including evidence-based guidelines for disease management, preventive cardiology, and hypertension management.
- **Focused Areas of Improvement:** Improving specific areas like GLP-1 agonist management, contrast-induced nephropathy prevention, and the treatment of TBI patients.
- **Updated Guidelines:** Following newly released clinical guidelines in various specialties, including OB-GYN, cardiology, and oncology.
- **Clinical Assessment & Diagnostics:** Improving diagnostic processes, clinical assessment techniques, and being more thoughtful in case selection for various conditions (e.g., prostate cancer, autoimmune diseases).

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI): Addressing Disparities

- **Addressing Disparities:** Raising awareness of healthcare disparities and incorporating them into education and clinical practices.
- **Promoting DEI in Medicine:** Introducing DEI topics into clinical settings, being more mindful of healthcare inequities, and helping patients navigate assistance programs.

Teaching and Educational Practices

- **Faculty and Learner Engagement:** Incorporating regular teaching sessions, promoting feedback for learners, and involving mid-level providers in educational activities.
- **Curriculum Updates:** Updating the curriculum to include new knowledge and provide more targeted, practical learning experiences for staff and learners.

Patient Interaction & Communication

- **Detailed Patient Conversations:** Engaging patients in detailed discussions about treatment options, risks, and benefits.
- **Enhanced Patient Interactions:** Providing more information to patients regarding their conditions and treatments, especially in the context of cancer and surgical decisions.

NEEDS ASSESSEMENT

Clinical and Patient Care Challenges

- **Anesthetic Management in Pediatrics:** Need for more education on pediatric anesthesia, including regional anesthesia techniques.

- **Handling Uncooperative Patients:** Strategies for managing patients who are uncooperative during procedures or treatments.
- **Diagnostic Challenges:** Difficulty in diagnosing unclear or complex cases, requiring more targeted education on differential diagnoses.
- **Specialist and Insurance Issues:** Addressing the challenges of a lack of specialists and navigating insurance-related difficulties in patient care.
- **Sociodemographic Factors:** Addressing socioeconomic factors affecting patient health and care outcomes, especially in underserved populations.
- **Immunosuppression Management:** Need for improved education on managing patients on immunosuppressive medications.
- **Minimally Invasive Procedures:** More education on minimally invasive techniques like minimally invasive transurethral resection (TUR).
- **Obesity Medicine:** Challenges and advancements in obesity medicine, including treatment options and management.
- **Patient-Centered Care:** Emphasizing patient-centered practices and improving the patient experience in care settings.
- **Post-Operative Care:** Addressing complications like post-operative intestinal obstructions and improving recovery strategies.

Workforce & Systemic Issues

- **Workforce Inequities & Burnout:** Addressing workforce inequities and strategies to prevent burnout in healthcare workers, including better work-life balance.
- **Staff Morale:** Focusing on strategies to improve staff morale and reduce stress among healthcare professionals.
- **Physician Burnout and Staffing Shortages:** Solutions for managing physician burnout and staffing shortages, especially in high-demand specialties.
- **Workplace Dynamics and DEI:** Improving workplace dynamics with a focus on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) practices.
- **Regulatory Restrictions:** Overcoming challenges related to regulatory restrictions and adapting practice accordingly.

Research & Education Issues

- **Research Recruitment:** Challenges in recruiting underserved populations for research, especially in local communities like Newark.
- **Bridging Research and Practice:** Closing the gap between research findings and their application in clinical practice.
- **Improved Engagement:** Developing strategies to better engage diverse audiences in educational sessions, especially for hard-to-reach groups.
- **Recruitment and Retention in Research:** Focused education on improving recruitment and retention of underserved populations in clinical studies.

Healthcare Delivery and Coordination

- **Interdisciplinary Coordination:** Enhancing coordination between different healthcare disciplines (e.g., specialists, primary care providers) for better patient outcomes.
- **Team-Based Activities:** More emphasis on team-based scholarly activities and improving teamwork across healthcare settings.
- **Healthcare Legal Issues:** Educating professionals on upcoming changes in healthcare laws and regulations.
- **Point of Care Ultrasound:** Training and implementing point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) in pediatric and other clinical settings.

Clinical Guidelines and Medication Updates

- **Up-to-Date Guidelines:** Ensuring healthcare professionals are consistently updated on the latest clinical care guidelines across various specialties.
- **Newer Medications:** Challenges related to prescribing newer medications and ensuring proper education on their use and potential side effects.
- **Conflicting Clinical Guidelines:** Clarifying and addressing confusion that arises from conflicting clinical guidelines in practice.

Patient Safety & Education

- **Patient Safety:** Increasing focus on patient safety topics to reduce errors and improve care outcomes.
- **Improved Patient Education:** Developing better strategies to educate patients on their conditions, treatment options, and prevention strategies.
- **Immunization and Vaccinations:** Addressing the challenges surrounding vaccinations and ensuring healthcare professionals are updated on immunization practices.
- **Misinformation Management:** Educating healthcare providers on how to effectively debunk misinformation found on social media, especially related to health topics.

Technological Integration and Efficiency

- **Access to Technology:** Addressing challenges in providing access to necessary medical technologies, especially in underserved areas.
- **Digitization and Digitalization:** Overcoming barriers related to digital tools and the integration of digitization in healthcare systems.
- **Efficiency in Practice:** Providing training on creating more efficient healthcare delivery, including reducing wait times and streamlining workflows.

Socioeconomic & Social Issues

- **Addressing Socioeconomic Barriers:** Focusing on how socioeconomic factors affect patient care and providing education on addressing these challenges.
- **Social Determinants of Health:** Raising awareness and providing education on how social determinants impact health outcomes, particularly in marginalized communities.

Gender, Mental Health, and Special Care

- **Expanding Gender-Affirming Care:** Educating healthcare professionals on providing better access to gender-affirming care, including LARC and abortion services.
- **Psychological Issues in Teens:** Addressing the management of psychological issues in adolescents, including mental health disorders like depression and anxiety.
- **Youth Psychiatry:** Offering more focused lectures on youth-related topics and child psychiatry.
- **Medically Complex Children:** Continuing to address care for medically complex children, particularly those with dysphagia or other complications.

Clinical Practice Development

- **Frailty and Prevention:** More focus on frailty and prevention strategies, particularly in geriatric care.
- **Wellness and Bedside Medicine:** Incorporating wellness series and focusing on the shift back to bedside medicine to improve patient interactions.
- **Quality Improvement (QI):** Focusing on quality improvement initiatives and striving for better patient outcomes.

Leadership and Professionalism

- **Leadership and Communication:** Providing education on leadership skills, effective communication, and teamwork, especially in high-stress environments.
- **Professionalism in Education:** Emphasizing the importance of professionalism in medical education and clinical practice.

Insurance, Compliance, and Legal Issues

- **Prior Authorization:** Addressing the challenges of the prior authorization process and its impact on patient care.
- **Insurance Denials:** Solutions for dealing with illegitimate insurance denials and improving reimbursement processes.
- **Compliance Challenges:** Providing education on overcoming compliance challenges in healthcare settings.