

The Pod System: An Innovative Strategy to Reform GME Teaching Sessions

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PURPOSE

- Today's learners not satisfied with "old method" of didactic sessions
- Create a new team-based educational program for residents
- Increase satisfaction, promote interpersonal skills and improve fund of knowledge

DEFINITION OF A "POD"

- See "Diagram of a Pod"
- Group of residents, consisting of one resident from each academic year, working together under the supervision of an attending (Faculty Champion) on academic projects such as scholarly activity, academic presentations and board preparation

IMPLEMENTATION

- Twenty-two neurology residents divided into seven Pods
- Seven faculty members selected by Residency Director and Chairman to be Pod "Faculty Champions"
- Faculty development session
- Schedule of weekly discussion and board review topics created
- Weekly "full-residency" educational sessions led by rotating Pods

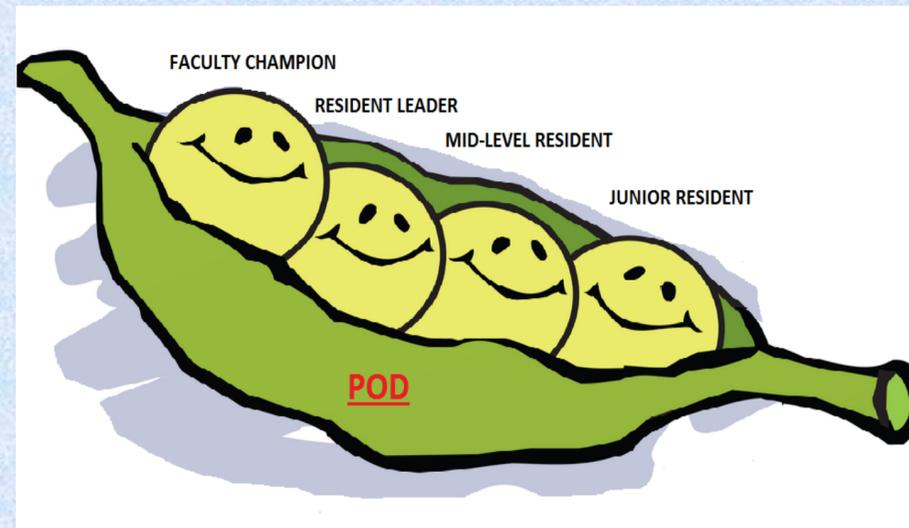
RESOURCES

- Protected resident education time
- Dedicated faculty
- Time set aside for weekly Pod meetings
- Utilization of various means of communication

EVALUATION PROCESS

- Resident Pre-Pod Survey
- Resident Survey at end of each weekly Pod Session
- Resident End of Year Post-Pod Survey
- Faculty Post-Pod Survey

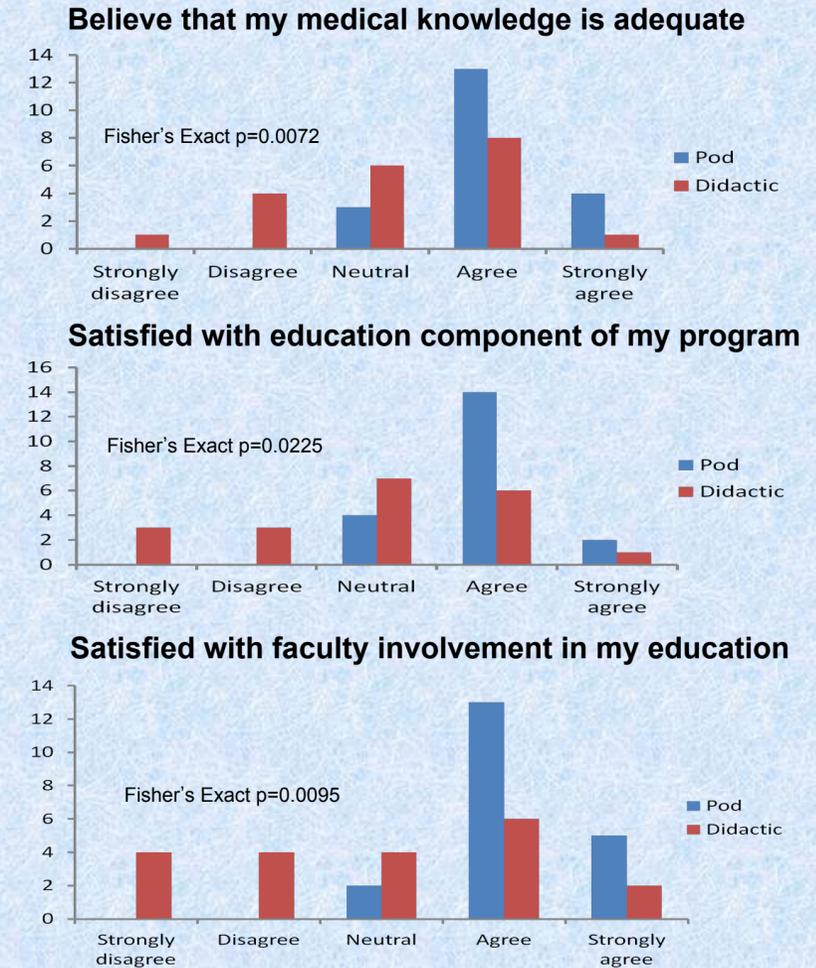
Diagram of a Pod



RESULTS

- 20 of 22 residents completed both the Pre-Pod and Post-Pod Surveys
- For 5 of the 7 resident questions, Fisher's Exact was significant ($p < 0.05$) with more positive responses for the Pod System than didactic teaching
- The Pod System was associated with more positive ratings of medical knowledge, greater satisfaction with the educational component, greater satisfaction with faculty involvement, and stronger resident agreement that they had a firm grasp of the material and could better apply basic science to the treatment of patients
- Faculty generally gave slightly higher positive ratings to the Pod sessions than the didactic sessions, but the small numbers precluded statistical significance

RESIDENT EVALUATION DATA



RESIDENT QUOTE: "Much better than last year. I loved working with my group!"

FACULTY QUOTE: "Residents take more initiative in their learning. More active, less passive."

CONCLUSION

- Residents and faculty members prefer Pod system to old didactic sessions
- Perceived adequacy of medical knowledge and faculty involvement improved

NEXT STEPS

- Distribute web-cameras and use a "web based utility" to help coordinate meetings between Pod members