



The Impacts of an Undergraduate Dermatology Society during the COVID-19 Pandemic

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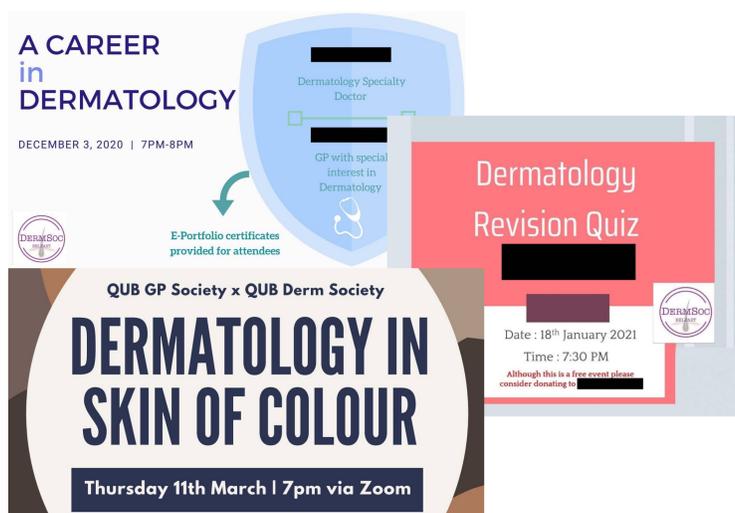
Introduction & Aims

- Queen's University Belfast's undergraduate dermatology society (QUB DermSoc) was founded in 2016.
- From 2017-2020 the society was inactive but it was revived in September 2020.
- Dermatology is underrepresented in medical school curricula across the UK¹ and Ireland². At QUB, students have one week of dermatology placement.
- QUB DermSoc aims to increase exposure to the specialty and supplement students' dermatology education.
- The society also aims to give interested medical students the opportunity to explore dermatology as a career.

Methods

- We organised 3 educational events during the academic year. Due to the pandemic these events were all held virtually.
- Events were advertised through a mailing list of members and social media (see Figure 1).
- Event 1 focussed on careers. The speakers included a dermatology registrar and a GP with a special interest in dermatology. The speakers gave an outline of their careers, provided advice for the application process and answered any questions.
- Event 2 focussed on exam preparation. The event was led by a junior doctor and covered important dermatological conditions for finals, history taking and examination skills. This event was supported by a skin cancer charity, for whom we raised donations.
- Event 3 focussed on dermatology in skin of colour. This event was in collaboration with the QUB GP society.

Figure 1: Event Advertisements



References

1. Yaakub A, Cohen SN, Singh M, Goulding JM. Dermatological content of U.K. undergraduate curricula: where are we now? Br J Dermatol. 2017;176(3):836.
2. Kelly A, Hennessy C, Ryan C. Unsatisfactory Level of Dermatology Undergraduate Education in Newly Qualified Irish Doctors. Ir Med J. 2018;111(4):746.

Outcomes

Membership

- The revival of the society generated interest from medical students across all year groups (see Figure 2).

Figure 2: Membership and Social Media Engagement



Careers Event

- 40 attendees submitted feedback forms
- 87.5% rated the event as excellent
- 95% found the event useful

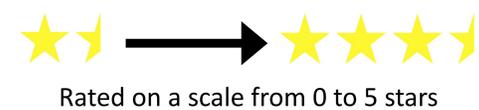
Exam Revision Quiz Event

- 10 attendees submitted feedback forms
- 80% rated the event 5 stars for usefulness for revision.
- 100% were likely to attend similar events in future.

Skin of Colour Event

- This was the most popular event, with 158 registrations.
- 58 attendees submitted feedback forms
- This event attracted a wide range of attendees: medical students, GPs, nurses, paediatricians and podiatrists from across the UK and Ireland.
- Attendees reported increased confidence in the topic following the event (see Figure 3)

Figure 3: Participant Confidence Before and After Skin of Colour Event



The Future

- Based on participant feedback, demand exists for similar events next year. Further highly requested events include:
 - Preparation for clinical examinations (OSCEs)
 - Revision lectures for important conditions
 - Subspecialties in dermatology e.g. Mohs surgery
 - Research/Audit/Elective opportunities
- Following competitive elections, a new committee has been elected to continue the work of QUB DermSoc.

Conclusions

- Student societies have a role to play in supporting dermatology education during the pandemic
- Events increased students' knowledge about dermatology conditions and careers
- Despite the challenges of hosting virtual events, their reach can exceed that of traditional face-to-face.