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Write Night: How a Writing Accountability Group (WAG) supports scholarly work and connection at a community residency program

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Recommended Citation

Rubenstein, Carrie B; Thomson, Claire; Lu, Miranda D; McDonald, Anna; and Dietrich, Karl, "Write Night: How a Writing Accountability Group (WAG) supports scholarly work and connection at a community residency program" (2022). *All Poster Presentations*. 6.

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Write Night: How a Writing Accountability Group (WAG) Supports Scholarly Work and Connection at Swedish Family Medicine – First Hill Residency

Carrie Rubenstein, MD, Claire Thomson, MD/MPH, Miranda D. Lu, MD, Anna McDonald, MD, Karl Dietrich, MD/MPH

PURPOSE

The purpose of this innovative endeavor was to improve scholarly output and collaboration at the Swedish First Hill Family Medicine residency by establishing a Writing Accountability Group (WAG).

BACKGROUND

While scholarly work during residency training is both required by the ACGME and important for producing physician leaders, many community-based residency programs have no formal structure to support such work and promote collaboration. WAGs have been studied in a variety of settings as a tool to increase scholarly output, improve writing habits, and provide mentorship for junior and senior faculty.

OBJECTIVES

We aimed to analyze the effectiveness of a WAG in promoting scholarly work and resident scholarly mentorship in a community-based residency program. By reporting this work, we hope to provide inspiration and a roadmap for other faculty to increase scholarly productivity and joy in their work.



Boost Your
Program's Scholarly
Achievement
through Faculty
Connection and
Collaboration!



IMPLEMENTATION

A faculty member at Swedish First Hill Family Medicine invited other faculty to form a WAG. Over the next 18 months, a group of 4-6 faculty met every 2-3 weeks for 90-minute sessions to write, provide peer mentorship regarding scholarly pursuits, and collaborate on scholarly projects.

RESULTS

The total number of faculty scholarly activities increased from 20 to 44 after the formation of a WAG, representing a 120% increase in our total activity. For scholarly activity that required peer review or conference acceptance, our total number of submissions increased from 14 to 28 yet maintained a similar acceptance rate (79% in 2018-2019, 85% in 2019-2020).

SIGNIFICANCE

Creation of a WAG provided a structure for faculty scholarly collaboration and accountability for completion of scholarly projects. In addition to increasing scholarly output and resident participation, our WAG improved wellness among faculty, providing a sense of collaboration and celebration of our scholarly work, particularly important during the COVID-19 pandemic. We will continue to evaluate the impact of the WAG in future years to look for sustained improvement.