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**Development of a Medical Student Educational Project to Promote Otolaryngology Engagement within the limitations of social distancing.**

Medical students are particularly impacted by the changes in medical education brought on by the COVID pandemic. During their fourth year, students rely on scheduling sub-internships to make final decisions about residency choices, accelerate their clinical knowledge, and garner letters of recommendation. Currently, due to cancellation of clerkships, students are faced with challenges that disrupt this process and therefore could make it challenging for the student to position themselves well for a successful residency match.

In particular, otolaryngology is a competitive surgical specialty. A strong detailed letter of recommendation with a CV showing significant Otolaryngology interest are critical for a successful residency application. Currently, we have nine rising fourth year UW students interested in otolaryngology. We have been pro-actively reaching out to them to gauge interest, concerns, and needs as they enter their senior year. Our students have reported that this communication has been very reassuring to them. In addition, our department hosts over 60 medical students annually across our core academic clerkship sites, with an additional 30-40 in the WWAMI region. Most of these students are completing an otolaryngology clerkship to further their knowledge and experience, but are otherwise not pursuing otolaryngology as a career option. Currently, these clerkships are cancelled through June and priority is being given to our otolaryngology interested students thereafter. Therefore, two important considerations became apparent: 1) opportunities for a strong residency application in a competitive specialty are limited, and 2) the non-otolaryngology interested student may not have the same opportunities to enhance their otolaryngology knowledge as previous.

Therefore, our goal was to develop a web based educational platform that targets the largest student population we serve – the non-otolaryngology tracked clerkship student, and have this content developed by our own otolaryngology interested students. The topics covered would include the 15 most critical otolaryngology conditions that primary care physicians should be aware of, in a web-based format that can be accessed in less than 10 minutes. This would be a resource for all of our clerkship students in as much as a curriculum guide for our WWAMI site educators. For the otolaryngology interested student it represents an opportunity for scholarly activity within the field and direct mentorship with a faculty member to curate the content.

Currently, this program has built two modules that are near completion. Our otolaryngology interested students have led and developed this platform with direct faculty oversight. It has led to enhanced engagement of these students with our Department and permitted an opportunity for strengthening their residency application. The program continues to grow as our students further develop new content and enhance the delivery of that which we have created.