

Emergency Medicine Interest Group: Evaluation of a Student Led Organization at Memorial University

Cody L. Dunne ¹, Darren E. Hansen ², Michael H. Parsons ³

1. Department of Emergency Medicine, University of Calgary, Calgary, CAN 2. Faculty of Medicine, Memorial University, Charlottetown, CAN 3. Emergency Medicine, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, CAN

✉ **Corresponding author:** Cody L. Dunne, cody.dunne@mun.ca

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Abstract

Innovation: Interest groups have become increasingly popular as students explore potential career paths earlier in their undergraduate experience. Emergency medicine (EM) has grown as a specialty and the match has become quite competitive. Attractive features of EM cited by learners (diversity, procedural skills and flexible schedule) appeal broadly to the undergraduate population. Learners at Memorial University recognized this leadership opportunity and worked with faculty to reach this wide target audience through a streamlined iterative evaluation of their EM Interest Group (EMIG).

Methods and results: The local EMIG was formed in 2010. Yearly, EMIG executive work with outgoing members using prior experiences, contacts and best practices to facilitate handover and progress. From 2015 to present, 379 surveys were collected, giving an 81.9% response rate. 67.5% of respondents were first year students, and 32.5% were second year. The survey consisted of Likert scale and open-response questions. The Likert scale questions yielded favorable responses. 377 students (99.6%) felt presenters were knowledgeable, 374 (98.6%) would recommend the sessions to others and 374 (98.6%) were satisfied they attended. Surprisingly, 165 students (43.6%) said they were not interested in Emergency Medicine, likely attending due to the appeal of session topics and transferrable of EM skills. 288 (76.0%) stated that attendance did increase their interest in EM. Top responses for aspects of EM most interesting to them included: ability to find a work/life balance, ability to work urban or rural, variety of cases seen, and the "non-routine" shifts.

Discussion: Survey feedback is used to inform refinement of the content, delivery and format of EMIG activities, delivered by EM faculty. Hands-on sessions (eg. suturing & airway management) have been popular. Informational sessions, on specific medical topics (eg. ECG, resuscitation cases) or broader topics (EM streams) have also been very well received. Inclusion of all interested students, particularly large numbers for hands-on sessions, has presented challenges. Beyond current survey results, it will be interesting to consider if EMIG participation translates to learning or behavioral changes relevant to later clinical encounters; a question that will be difficult to quantify.

Conclusion: The EM interest group is one of the most active at Memorial University. Survey

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results indicate that participants enjoy the EMIG session content and the structured iterative approach used by the group has been successful in maintaining an effective student led organization.

EMERGENCY MEDICINE INTEREST GROUP: EVALUATION OF A STUDENT LED ORGANIZATION AT MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY
 Cody Dunne, Darren Hansen, Michael Parsons MD
 Memorial University of Newfoundland

Introduction

- Emergency Medicine (EM) has become well established as a distinct specialty and maturing to an EM residency is increasingly competitive.
- It is important that learners have the opportunity for exposure to the field early in their training but the traditional curriculum is limited in this regard.
- In 2015, students at Memorial University's Faculty of Medicine form an Emergency Medicine Interest Group (EMIG).

Emergency Medicine Interest Group

Goals

- To promote the EM specialty to students
- To provide learning experiences and skill development opportunities relevant to the practice of EM
- To act as a resource to students considering EM as a career

Overarching Activities

- Leadership:** Provide students with exposure to committees/volunteer experience with EM discipline related projects. This includes peer elections amongst the students to determine leadership in the group.
- Collaboration:** Work with other interest groups in providing interdisciplinary educational opportunities. Interest groups include: Rural Medicine, Family Medicine, Radiology, Surgery & Pathology.
- Networking:** Provide the opportunity for students to meet & interact with EM specialists and residents in formal and informal settings.
- Procedural Skills Development:** Introduce students to procedural skills and simulation based instruction, with low learner-to-faculty ratios and extended practice times.

Educational Sessions - Selected Events

Suturing / Injections	Trauma Radiographs	EKGs
Point of Care Ultrasound	Airway Management	CCF and PnDC (residency routes)
Podiatric EM	Toxic / Crisis Intervention	Rural EM

Objectives

- To evaluate the effective of EMIG activities in meeting its stated goals: promoting EM, providing adequate/relevant learning experiences and acting as a resource for students
- To assess students' career interests before and after participation with the group and whether the opportunities offered affects their interest level.
- To provide students with an opportunity to suggest how the group could be more effective at showcasing EM broad spectrum to them

Methods

- The EMIG executive developed a two-part survey.
- Any students who participated in an EMIG event during the 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 academic years could voluntarily complete the survey.
- The survey recorded both Quantitative (Likert Scale) and Qualitative (Open-response) data
- The quantitative data was analyzed using SPSS. The qualitative data responses were analyzed by two independent reviewers and themes in response and selected quotations were identified by them for discussion.

Results

Year of Study: First Year - 256/279 (92.1%)
 Second Year - 121/179 (67.6%)

Increased interest in EM after the EMIG session

What the Students are Saying:

- "Unique experiences definitely piqued my interest in EM"
- "I feel really fortunate to have had the opportunity"
- "Great session, it was awesome as a first year student to be able to participate in a hands on session such as this"
- "The structure and content of this session was amazing. One of the better Interest Group sessions I have seen"

The Likert Survey

- How satisfied are you with the session?
- How valuable were the skills presented?
- How helpful was the presentation?
- How knowledgeable was the presenter?
- How likely are you to recommend this session?
- Before the session, how interested were you in EM?
- Did the session increase your interest in considering a career in EM?

Discussion

- Virtually all learners felt presenters were knowledgeable in their area, were satisfied they attended, and would recommend EMIG events to others.
- Approximately half of attendees were not interested in studying Emergency Medicine, however, over 75% of attendees stated that the EMIG sessions increased their interest in learning more about Emergency Medicine.
- Most interesting aspects of EM (top responses): ability to achieve a work/life balance, ability to work urban or rural settings, the variety of cases seen, and "non-routine" shifts.

Future Studies

- How does attendance of EMIG affect future career choices?
- How does the EMIG skills nights affect performance during clerkship?
- A Comparison of what faculty versus learners believe to be the most important topics presented.

Conclusion

- The EMIG is one of the most active medical interest groups at Memorial University.
- Survey results indicate that participants enjoy the EMIG session content.
- The structured iterative approach used by the group has been successful in maintaining an effective student-led organization from year to year.
- Not all participants were interested in pursuing formal EM residency training, but the majority of learners still believed that EMIG was valuable in the development of skills and knowledge for a wide variety of career paths.

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Contacts

Cody Dunne: cdunne@mun.ca
 Darren Hansen: dhansen@mun.ca
 Michael Parsons: mjparsons@mun.ca