

Global Health: An Exchange of Surgical Expertise

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Introduction:

Technology has greatly influenced the practice of medicine, an innovation that can be seen in every aspect of patient care. The most remarkable innovations that have changed the practice and delivery of health care in the recent past are the introduction of the electronic medical record and the use of robotic technology and minimally invasive techniques in the surgical arena. In order to not only spread these innovative approaches globally, but also to exchange ideas and data so that progress continues at the fastest possible pace to continue to advance medical practice, international meetings can serve as an excellent conduit. The 2012 8th AAGL International Congress on Minimally Invasive Gynecology that the senior author was invited to is an excellent example of how technology and learning modules practiced at Rutgers can touch an international audience in a time frame of limited time away from the parent institution.



Ethicon TASK kits content

Results:

In addition to his teaching role at this global conference, AB was able to establish collaboration with other physicians and medical schools in Romania. Different local media outlets were also present during the conference to capture the importance of minimal invasive gynecological surgeries and to showcase a joint effort between the medical communities across the globe. Through association with Ethicon Global Education Institute (Ethicon Endo-surgery), AB was able to provide laparoscopic training-kits called "Ethicon TASK ('train anywhere skill kit) kits" to promote minimal invasive surgeries for medical students and residents. A visiting doctor lecture program was also initiated to further encourage collaboration between Rutgers RWJMS and medical schools in Romania. This program was able to establish a successful relationship between the two universities located on two continents. As a result we are planning a minimal invasive gynecological conference in 2014.



Laparoscopic training simulation in USA with the same TASK kits supplied in Romania

International Ties for Dissemination of Learning:

As a teaching institution, a number of simulation surgical exercises followed up by hands-on assistance in the operating room is a routine occurrence here at Rutgers RWJMS. In addition, faculty members are open to immediate feedback and ideas generated by the learners they are teaching. With global outreach, Rutgers faculty applies this same algorithm to international audiences. For example, this past year, Minimally Invasive and Robotic Gynecologic Surgery, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences was invited to not only lecture at an international meeting held in Romania to institute an exchange of ideas, but also to teach through the use of training kits brought there to enhance surgical ability and expertise of this international group of attendees.



Dr. Balica lecturing at the 8th AAGL International Congress in Bucharest, Romania

Conclusion:

Global health has many facets, and one that can be utilized in a cost effective manner that reaches the most established clinicians and health care learners is through international meetings. These can be used to not only lecture to global audiences, but also can be used to exchange ideas for further progress in the health care field and to teach learners new techniques for which teachers in their area may not be readily available. In addition, through the media attention these conferences bring, the general population is also included in both health care learning and the understanding of what innovations their clinicians are learning---which will translate into more advanced care for their communities.



Dr. Amin at the Ethicon Global Education Institute in Somerville, USA



Ethicon TASK Kit demonstration in Somerville, USA