How a State ACR Chapter Increased Resident Attendance at the National Meeting and What That Means for the Future ACR

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Financial Disclosures

- None

Indiana Radiological Society

2016-17 Chapter Goal: Increase resident attendance at the national meeting

Reasoning:

- Resident exposure and experience was the best use of resources to boost opinion of and membership in the ACR later on

Strategy:

- Monetary scholarships
- Economize monetary coverage
- Departmental encouragement
- Emphasize ACR's role and value throughout academic year

Scholarships and Use of Funds

- Indiana Radiological Society (IRS) received a generous donation from a chapter member which enabled more residents to receive an IRS scholarship for ACR attendance

- Changes were made to reimbursement policies and housing
  - Previously- one resident per room
  - Switched policy to shared rooms, making funds go further
    - One attending even shared with a resident to allow them several more days attendance at the meeting
  - IRS no longer reimburse for nights past Hill Day to discourage overstaying on the IRS' dime

Partnership with IU Residency

Shared goal with state institution, Indiana University (IU)- the feeling to increase resident presence was mutual!

- IU allotted several noon conferences for discussion of ACR
  - Debriefing of prior years national meeting and talking points
  - In depth discussion on ACR missions statement and roles in today's practices
  - Encouraged attendance at state level events

- Faculty and ACR representatives supported attendance and abstract submission
  - When abstracts opened for submission IU Program Director sent a reminder email and drummed up support, matched interested residents with faculty
  - Organized time with interested faculty and residents to submit projects

Outcome

14 Residents were in attendance at the national meeting

- 24% of all Indiana University (IU) residents (58 total)
- 10 fully funded by IRS
  - Travel expenses, room, meal stipend
- 1 partially funded by IRS
  - Room only
- 4 with monetary support from IU with poster acceptance
  - Travel stipend supplements cost

Measuring Impact

Survey:

- Retrospective
- 9 questions in agreement scaling format
- 1 question with ranking format
- Focused on:
  - Reasons for attendance
  - ACR experience
  - Opinion of ACR pre and post meeting
  - Potential limiting factors for future meeting attendance
- 13/14 residents in attendance responded

Survey Questions

Questions focusing on IRS finances and influencers to attend meeting

- "Financial Support was influential in my attending ACR 2017"
- " I submitted an abstract after encouragement from the residency"
- "Without a scholarship I could not have attending the national meeting"
- "Sharing a hotel room was a negative experience"

Survey Questions

Questions focusing on residents view of ACR

- "My experience at the national ACR meeting affected my pinion of the ACR in a positive way"
- "In the future, I believe I will be more involved in ACR directly due to attendance at this meeting"
- "I am more likely to join the ACR after residency"
- "How much did your experience at the national meeting influence this [above] decision"
- "Networking at ACR was a valuable experience I wish to repeat"

Survey Outcomes

- Across all relevant questions attendance at the meeting improved residents opinions of the ACR and directly contributed to intent to join ACR following residency

	NEGATIVELY	NO CHANGE	POSITIVELY	TOTAL
Experience at ACR 2017 affected my opinion of the ACR positively/negatively	0.00% 0	23.08% 3	76.92% 10	13

	NO/UNLIKELY	LIKELY	YES/HIGHLY LIKELY	UNSURE	TOTAL
I will join the ACR after residency	7.69% 1	30.77% 4	69.23% 9	0.00% 0	13
Going to ACR 2017 influenced [the above] choice	8.33% 1	n/a	91.67% 11	0.00% 0	12
I will be more involved in the future after attending	0.0% 0	30.77% 4	69.23% 9	0.00% 0	13
I am likely to attend further ACR meetings	0.0% 0	46.5% 6	30.7% 4	23.0% 3	13
ACR Networking was valuable and I would repeat it	0.0% 0	23.0% 3	76.9% 10	0.0% 0	13

Survey Outcomes

Room sharing

- Residents did not find sharing a room a negative experience

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	N/A - DID NOT SHARE ROOM	TOTAL
Room sharing was a negative experience	15.38% 2	53.85% 7	15.38% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	15.38% 2	13

Financial support

- Many attendees would not have been able to attend unassisted

	DISAGREE	SOMEWHAT TRUE	STRONGLY AGREE	N/A – ATTENDED WITHOUT $ HELP	TOTAL
I could not have attended without $ aid	7.69% 1	15.38% 2	53.85% 7	23.08% 3	13
Financial aid was essential	7.69% 1	46.15% 6	38.46% 5	7.69% 1	13

Discussion

- ACR benefits from continued good opinion of radiologists and radiology trainees i.e. future due paying and active members.
  - Resident experiencing ACR national meetings suggests increased future involvement on multiple levels, therefore…
  - There is value in resident presence at national meetings and this should be recognized by those who care about the future of the organization.
  - Chapters and members might evaluate their own game plan for getting residents involved and see where improvements might be made.
    - Members might even consider furthering a scholarship or donation for their home or graduate institution.
  - Word of mouth continues to be one of the easiest and most effective (and cost effective) ways of shouting the ACRs worth!