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

By: Alisha Capps MD, Bilal Tahir MD, Matthew Wanner MD
Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, IN
Financial Disclosures

• None
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
    o 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:
    o Reasons for attendance
    o ACR experience
    o Opinion of ACR pre and post meeting
    o 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.

#### Experience at ACR 2017 affected my opinion of the ACR positively/negatively

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NEGATIVELY</th>
<th>NO CHANGE</th>
<th>POSITIVELY</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Experience at ACR 2017</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>23.08%</td>
<td>76.92%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### I will join the ACR after residency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NO/UNLIKELY</th>
<th>LIKELY</th>
<th>YES/HIGHLY LIKELY</th>
<th>UNSURE</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I will join the ACR after residency</td>
<td>7.69%</td>
<td>30.77%</td>
<td>69.23%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Going to ACR 2017 influenced [the above] choice</td>
<td>8.33%</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>91.67%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I will be more involved in the future after attending</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>30.77%</td>
<td>69.23%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am likely to attend further ACR meetings</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>46.5%</td>
<td>30.7%</td>
<td>23.0%</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACR Networking was valuable and I would repeat it</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>23.0%</td>
<td>76.9%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Survey Outcomes

## Room sharing
- Residents did not find sharing a room a negative experience

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRONGLY DISAGREE</th>
<th>DISAGREE</th>
<th>NEUTRAL</th>
<th>AGREE</th>
<th>STRONGLY AGREE</th>
<th>N/A - DID NOT SHARE ROOM</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Room sharing was a negative experience</td>
<td>15.38% 2</td>
<td>53.85% 7</td>
<td>15.38% 2</td>
<td>0.00% 0</td>
<td>0.00% 0</td>
<td>15.38% 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Financial support
- Many attendees would not have been able to attend unassisted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISAGREE</th>
<th>SOMEWHAT TRUE</th>
<th>STRONGLY AGREE</th>
<th>N/A – ATTENDED WITHOUT $ HELP</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I could not have attended without $ aid</td>
<td>7.69% 1</td>
<td>15.38% 2</td>
<td>53.85% 7</td>
<td>23.08% 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial aid was essential</td>
<td>7.69% 1</td>
<td>46.15% 6</td>
<td>38.46% 5</td>
<td>7.69% 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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!