



2020 LEAD Capstone Poster Session

Elements of an Excellent Psychiatry Clerkship Experience: A Survey Study of Graduating Medical Students

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Abstract

- This issue of recruitment into psychiatry has public health importance as the World Health Organization predicts that depressive disorders will be the second highest cause of disability [1] and this was pre-COVID19.
- There is shortage of psychiatrists and it is going to get worse over time due to a large retirement drain from the field [2].
- To address this shortage of psychiatrists across the United States, academic psychiatry departments must understand what draws students to pursue a career in psychiatry.
- In a recent Association of America Medical Colleges (AAMC) survey of 29,000 graduating medical students, the factor most associated with psychiatry as a specialty choice is students rating their psychiatry clerkship as excellent [3].
- Although this suggests that an excellent clerkship may improve recruitment into psychiatry, to our knowledge there has never been a multi-site survey studies of graduating medical students that identify what factors lead to an excellent clerkship rating.
- I propose to survey graduation year medical students from multiple institutions to determine what factors they considered when rating their clerkship experience as excellent.



Objectives

- Increasing numbers of United States medical school graduates have been going into psychiatry [4], but a national shortage of psychiatrists remains [2]. In a recent Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) survey of 29,000 graduating medical students, the factor most associated with psychiatry as a specialty choice was students rating their psychiatry clerkship as excellent [3].
- Identifying the factors that lead to an excellent clerkship rating could inform psychiatric educators on how to adjust the psychiatric clerkship to promote a positive student experience and recruitment into the specialty.
- There are currently no multi-site survey studies of graduating medical students that identify what factors lead to an excellent clerkship rating.
- To fill this gap in the literature, we surveyed graduating medical students from eight institutions to determine what factors they considered when rating their clerkship experience as excellent. Specifically, we examined psychiatry clerkship characteristics that students view as effective and rewarding to identify target areas to improve recruitment.



Sites and Collaborators

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6. Wright State University, Dayton, OH, USA
7. University of California Davis School of Medicine, Davis,
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8. Eastern Virginia Medical School, Norfolk, VA, USA





Methods

Sample:

Anonymous survey link emailed to 1457 M-4 students from 8 different medical school across the USA

Two reminder emails spaced one week apart

Schools were chosen for geographical distribution and to provide a balance between public and private institutions

Instrument:

Obtained post-clerkship student feedback at University of Texas – Southwestern Medical Center over two years to assess what they considered when rating a clerkship as excellent

Created a final survey consisting of 22 Likert-type items, as well as a rating of the clerkship using the same wording as the AAMC survey, six demographic items including planned medical specialty, and one free response item for participants to list any other factors that they feel contribute to an excellent clerkship

Analysis:

Z-tests were used to determine which characteristics are the least/most salient to medical students

T-tests were used to determine whether students going into psychiatry rated their clerkship higher on average

Multiple regression analysis was used to determine the predictive ability of each demographic characteristic, particularly specialty, on individual items scores



Survey

1. How important to you were the following in improving the overall quality of your psychiatric clerkship experience (not at all important, slightly important, moderately important, very important, extremely important):

- 1.1 Well Organized Rotation
- 1.2 Competent Clerkship Coordinator
- 1.3 Competent Clerkship Director
- 1.4 Flexibility Around Absences
- 1.5 Clear Communication of Clerkship Expectations
- 1.6 Transparent Grading Process
- 1.7 Timely Feedback from Faculty
- 1.8 Quality of Lecture Series
- 1.9 Having Non-Lecture Learning Activities (such as simulations)
- 1.10 Using Active Learning (such as TBL, PBL, etc.)
- 1.11 Dedicated Time for Self-Study and Test Review
- 1.12 Faculty Teaching
- 1.13 Resident Teaching
- 1.14 Outpatient Patient Care Experience on Clerkship
- 1.15 Inpatient Patient Care Experience on Clerkship
- 1.16 Diversity of Clinical Experiences
- 1.17 Overall Clinical Environment
- 1.18 Feeling Your Time is Valued by the Clerkship and Clinical Team
- 1.19 Being an Integrated Part of the Clinical Team
- 1.20 Doing Meaningful Clinical Work
- 1.21 Being Able to play an Important Role for my Clinical Team
- 1.22 Being Able to Function Autonomously

2. Please list any other factors that you feel contribute to an excellent clerkship:

3. Rate the Quality of Your Educational Experience on Your Psychiatry Clerkship (Poor, Fair, Good, Excellent)

4. Did you have an outpatient experience on your psychiatry clerkship? (yes/no)

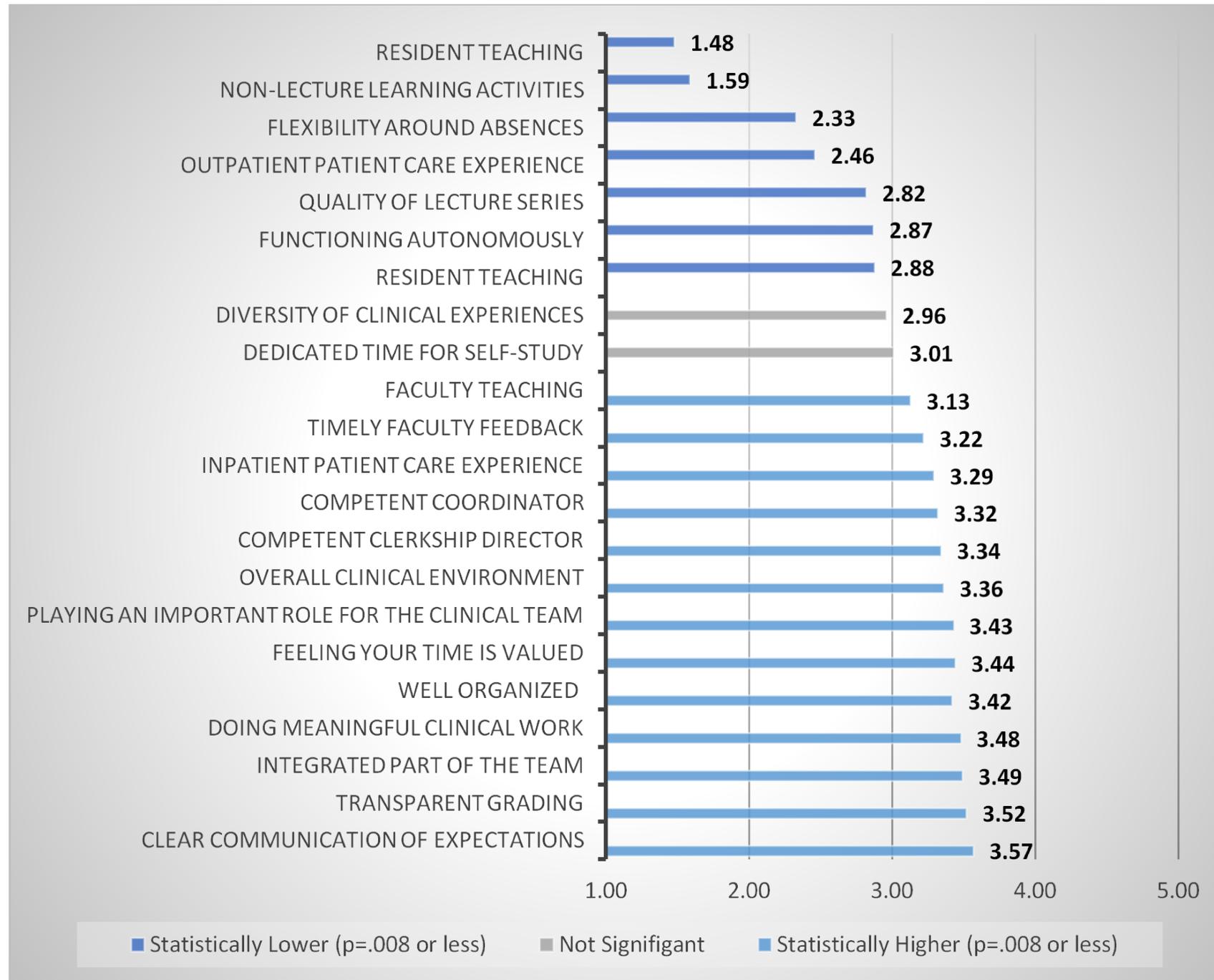


Application of What You Learned at LEAD

- Identifying and framing the problem: align with UT Southwestern's strategic initiative for a Forward Looking Curriculum and my personal interest as Associate Clerkship Director
- Stakeholder Analysis
- Using leadership skills to recruit colleagues at other schools and move project forward
- Using communication, negotiation, and conflict management to determine survey questions and methods both with medical students in feedback sessions and with colleagues



Results



Student comments: multiple mentions of patient variety (12), clinical teaching (9), a supportive environment and clinical team (8), a positive interactions with the clinical team (6), the benefit of having an inpatient experience (6), a negative outpatient experience (6), adequate study time (5), clear clerkship expectations (4), clarity about grades (3), and useful mid-rotation feedback (3).

Figure 2. Horizontal bar chart depicting each average item score with comparisons to average total scale score.



Innovation and Significance

- A quality educational experience on a psychiatric clerkship links clinical skills to patient care outcomes, generates interest in psychiatry, and supports recruitment.
- The results suggest that, for this generation of learners, faculty and clerkship directors should greatly prioritize administrative items (i.e., a “well-run clerkship”) and clinical opportunities that allow students to feel integrated into and valued by the team.
- Future research could further quantify and qualify these parameters, look at how psychiatry clerkships achieved those components, and compare psychiatric clerkships to other clerkships on these components.



References

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