



## Presentation Abstract

Session: Innovations Exhibits

Abstract  
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Title: Teaching  
Health Policy: Developing a Portable  
E-learning Tool for Medical Student Education

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Abstract:

**Background:**

In the wake of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), it is imperative that medical education include formal study of health policy (HP). Many of the new initiatives depend on physician understanding of HP for implementation, to ensure delivery of cost-effective, safe, and comprehensive health care to patients. HP curricula vary widely across medical schools, and many schools lack any formal education in HP altogether. Only 30% of medical schools have a department or institute of HP within their university, and students consistently report a desire for more HP education. Experts emphasize the importance of a standardized HP curriculum as a fundamental component of medical education, based on 4 core concepts: 1) systems and principles; 2) quality and safety; 3) value and equity; and, 4) politics and law. Online self-directed learning is an effective instructional method that can bring curricula to schools without investing in additional resources or infrastructure. We are developing an online HP curriculum for medical students, which has the potential to satisfy the need for standardization of HP education and will provide a convenient and efficient means to reach students across the country.

**Methods:**

Our HP curriculum is comprised of web-based modules. Following evaluation of the piloted curriculum on current George Washington University (GWU) HP track

students, the curriculum will be administered in 2 segments to 2 cohorts of students. Each cohort will complete 3 in-person lectures and 3 online modules during each segment, and we will study knowledge retention across the 2 methods.

**Future Directions:**

Once piloted at GWU, this online HP curriculum will be shared online and made available for undergraduate, graduate, and continuing medical education at other institutions.

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