

Access to Family Physician Care in Nova Scotia

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Action Challenge:

Can we increase engagement of community family medicine preceptors for undergraduate medical education in Nova Scotia?

Background:

Medical students interest in a career in family medicine is positively influenced by exposure during training. A relative lack of family physicians as classroom teachers, case writers and community preceptors in NS impairs potential recruitment to the specialty.

Findings:

A survey of 94 family physicians at the 2018 Dalhousie Family Medicine Fall Refresher showed that professional satisfaction and mentorship were positive aspects of office-based teaching. Respondents identified adequate remuneration as key to committing to teaching engagement.

Preceptor expansion requires the development of streamlined processes for granting academic appointments and standardized coordination of long-term schedules.¹

Formal mentorship programs must link faculty in similar practices to address the needs of community preceptors.²

Most preceptors want help with time management, evaluations and efficient teaching techniques.³

Willingness to teach is associated with younger age and previous teaching experience.⁴

Recommendations/next steps:

- Create a robust infrastructure to sustainably identify, recruit, develop and support community family physicians as teaching faculty.
- Build a distributed network of community champions to engage and mentor their colleagues in making a commitment to practice-based teaching.
- Create a program of remuneration and award recognition for community family medicine preceptors related to undergraduate medical education.
- Ensure teaching competence in family medicine graduates.

Value statement:

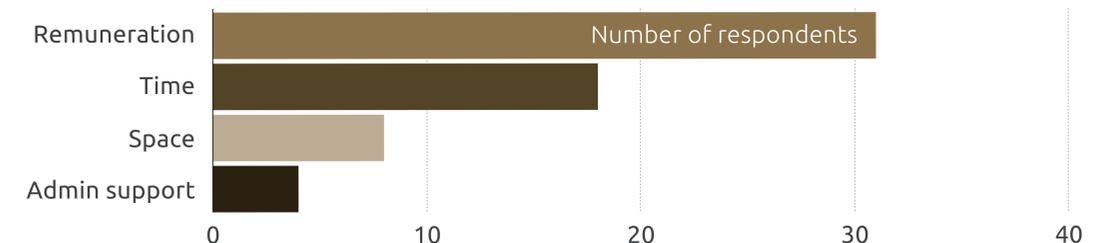
Stakeholders must value the role community family medicine preceptors play in the education of medical students.

Project methods:

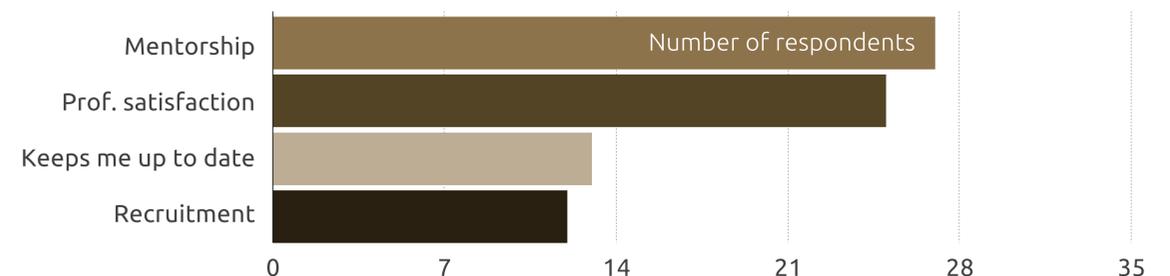
1. Literature review
2. Meetings with stakeholders
3. Survey of a convenience sample of family physicians
4. Explored areas of positive deviance

Survey results of 94 family physicians at the 2018 Dalhousie Family Medicine Fall Refresher:

What would it take to encourage you to take on medical students?



What do you value about teaching medical students?



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