



MEDICAL EDUCATION  
SCHOLARSHIP CENTRE

## Medical Education Scholarship Forum Proceedings

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### **Exploring the effects of participation in Family Medicine Interest Group activities on medical student interest in family medicine**

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**Purpose:** The mission of Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN)'s Family Medicine Interest Group (FMIG) is to promote and foster interest in the area of family medicine with the intention of recruiting medical students to become family medicine physicians. The influence of participation in MUN FMIG activities (e.g. procedures day, speaker series, etc.) on medical student interest in and attitude towards the field of family medicine was studied. **Methods:** Following each FMIG event, MUN Pre-Clerkship undergraduate medical students (classes of 2015-2017) in attendance completed individual quantitative and qualitative post-surveys. Surveys were designed to assess interest and impact of the events on attendees. Data were collected and analyzed to determine the most useful and beneficial activities with regard to cost: benefit ratio and student impact. **Results:** Of the 137 surveyed participants, 66.2% indicated a prior interest in family medicine as a specialty choice; 77.2% indicated that participation increased their personal interest in family medicine as a specialty choice. Of those that indicated an initial low interest in family medicine, 50% reported that participation increased their interest in family medicine as a specialty choice. Also, 97.3% of those surveyed indicated that FMIG activities increased their perceptions of the breadth of practice involved in the specialty, and 99.3% considered FMIG activities to be useful learning experiences. **Conclusions:** Participation in MUN's FMIG activities increased Pre-Clerkship medical students' awareness and interest in family medicine as a specialty choice for a majority of students, especially among those with a prior low interest. Participation also increased students' perceptions of the breadth of practice involved in the profession. Student evaluations of specific FMIG activities provide additional insight into interest and benefits of those activities and will aid in future program development.