Osteopathic Integration Clinical Division: A Move in the Right Direction

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Background

• Clinical Divisions/Sections (CD/CS) have been in existence in medical education.
• These groups are composed of faculty from the specialty area and exist to provide an organized, collegial, collaborative platform for clinicians, academics, and researchers to provide a shared context in advancing the conceptualization, research, and practice of their respective field.
• To our knowledge, the majority of the CD/CS are housed in huge academic medical centers.
• While there is no academic medical center at the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, eleven CDs exist (Table 1).
• These CDs are the professional, specialty-related academic homes for faculty from our partner teaching hospitals and other health care facilities across Ohio.
• In particular, the Osteopathic Integration Clinical Division is composed of community OMM and primary care physicians and practitioners in Ohio.

Methods

• The development of the Osteopathic Integration Clinical Division is included in the Strategic Plan of the Office of Osteopathic Integration.
• The Office’s mission is “improving the health and healing of our patients through the integration of OPP into the daily practice of medicine.”
• An informal needs assessment of OMM faculty was conducted through focus groups and interviews, with three main results (Figure 1).
  • Goals and objectives were identified.
  • Educational strategies were planned.
  • Evaluation and feedback mechanisms are being sought.

Results

The OI CD is composed of OMM physicians and champions that teach our medical learners. Regular educational forums (Figure 2) are held for these physicians with the purpose of:
• Exchanging knowledge and exploring new possibilities.
• Enhancing the clinical learning environment.
• Improving overall operations and quality in their clinical settings.
• Receiving faculty and professional development, research and program support.
• Addressing challenges and finding solutions.
• Promoting business partnering and collaboration.
• Advancing osteopathic principles to meet the demands of healthcare reform.
• Building a better continuum of medical education, fixing the faulty network connections from UME to GME to practice.

Table 1. Eleven Heritage College Clinical Divisions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Emergency Medicine</th>
<th>Orthopedic Surgery</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family Medicine</td>
<td>Osteopathic Integration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Surgery</td>
<td>Palliative Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Obstetrics and Gynecology</td>
<td>Psychiatry</td>
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<td>Ophthalmology</td>
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Figure 1. Osteopathic Integration Strategic Plan

Figure 2. Osteopathic Integration Education Forum Physician Engagement