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“A Voice In Your Ear” Podcast – The Second Year

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Background

In July of 2016, the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) School of Medicine matriculated their first cohort (Class of 2020). In an attempt to organize the advice that the Class of 2020 planned to provide future classes, a podcast was developed by several medical students from the Class of 2020 in cooperation with faculty and administration.

Program Description

The first 20 episodes of the podcast were rolled out on the iTunes and Android Podcast Player applications in July 2017 – in time for the matriculating Class of 2021 to listen to prior to starting their first module. A partnership was developed between the UTRGV SOM and the UTRGV Center for Online Learning and Technology, which in addition to providing technical expertise, provided free access to their recording studio and audio editing software. The partnership was highlighted in the UTRGV student-run newspaper.

Feedback was received by podcast listeners and contributors and ultimately, the feedback was formulated into an IRB-approved research study that culminated in presentation at AAMC LSL 2017.

Since then, approximately 10 new episodes have been created and added to the podcast channel. The new content focused on Step 1 and the clerkship experiences of different medical students from the Class of 2020.

Discussion

A Continuing Review Request was obtained from IRB and new data from the Class of 2022 was collected via survey sent from administration as well as via SoundCloud. Compared to data collected from the Class of 2021 last year, listener-ship declined among the Class of 2022. However, listener-ship as a whole did not change. Multiple contributors to the decline among the Class of 2022 exist, including the development of new episodes that didn't reflect the priorities of first-year medical students and a scattering of the original podcast contributors (who originally marketed the project to the Class of 2021 last year) to different clinical sites throughout the Rio Grande Valley. The data collected continue to inform the content creators how to improve the podcast for its current and future listeners.