

The Besrouer Centre for Global Family Medicine

Dr. Patrick Chege Memorial Research Award Poster Presentation

Strengthening Knowledge and Skills of Haitian Family Physicians to fight COVID-19 through online Training Sessions

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Context

Involved at different patient care levels, family physicians in Haiti are in the frontline to play an important role during this pandemic. Strengthening their competencies through professional development/training initiatives is critical to addressing the demand for quality care, infection control and public health interventions. Our objective is to describe the training program of the Haitian Association of Family Physicians (AHMEF) designed to strengthen knowledge and skills of family medicine residents and family physicians (FMR&FP) in Haiti to fight COVID-19.

Methods

A synchronous online training was divided in two parts (June-July 2020, June-July 2021); each consisted of three sessions of 2.5 hours. Didactic methods included PowerPoint presentations, demonstration videos, questions and answers, short problems/cases. The following COVID-19 aspects were covered: diagnosis, biopsychosocial care at home and in hospital, individual and community prevention and control measures, physician professionalism and wellness, mutations, and vaccination. Trainers were 11 family physicians and three other specialists. The training targeted FMR&FP and was open to other healthcare professionals. Satisfaction, knowledge and skills of FMR&FP were self-reported immediately after the sessions; their involvement in the fight against COVID-19 was self-reported one year after the training.

Results

Among 66 FMR&FP, 50.0% were women, and 68.2% were family physicians; 66.7% attended the training in 2020 and 81.8% attended in 2021, 31.8% attended at least four of the six training sessions. Out of 34 satisfaction evaluation received, 55.9% mentioned very satisfied and 44.1% satisfied. Regarding auto-evaluations of FMR&FP, 13/14 were comfortable with epidemiological concepts, 11/14 were confident they could protect themselves from COVID-19, 13/13 were confident to apply wellness techniques, 6/7 were comfortable with the therapeutic approach to COVID-19. Of the 19 FMR&FP who responded the follow-up survey, 94.7% were involved in the fight against COVID-19 in Haiti (57.9% in clinical care, 63.2% in health education, and 47.4% in other interventions); respectively, 57.9% and 42.1% found the training very useful and useful to fight COVID-19.

Conclusion

AHMEF's COVID-19 online training was successfully implemented. A large proportion of FMR&FP responding to the evaluations reported comfort and confidence in different COVID-19 aspects and confirmed the usefulness of the training to fight COVID-19.

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