



Mindy M. Kim*, Caleb Sokolowski*, Shabber Syed*, Diane L. Levine
Wayne State University School of Medicine
*co-first authors

BACKGROUND

- Quality improvement (QI) is an effective way to improve the delivery of healthcare through systematic problem solving.¹
- Problem Statement: Medical students often witness inefficiencies in healthcare, however students are often unequipped to approach these problems in a systematic manner nor show evidence these modifications improve clinical care.
- Through participation in the Institution for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) QI practicum, students may gain fundamental QI skills required to develop and oversee their own QI projects
- We evaluate if participation in an online practicum improves students' confidence in conducting QI projects**

METHODS



Four Wayne State School of Medicine students participated in the IHI online practicum "Moving Quality Improvement from Theory to Action" in 2020.



The online practicum consisted of lectures, interactive reviews, quizzes and coaching sessions.



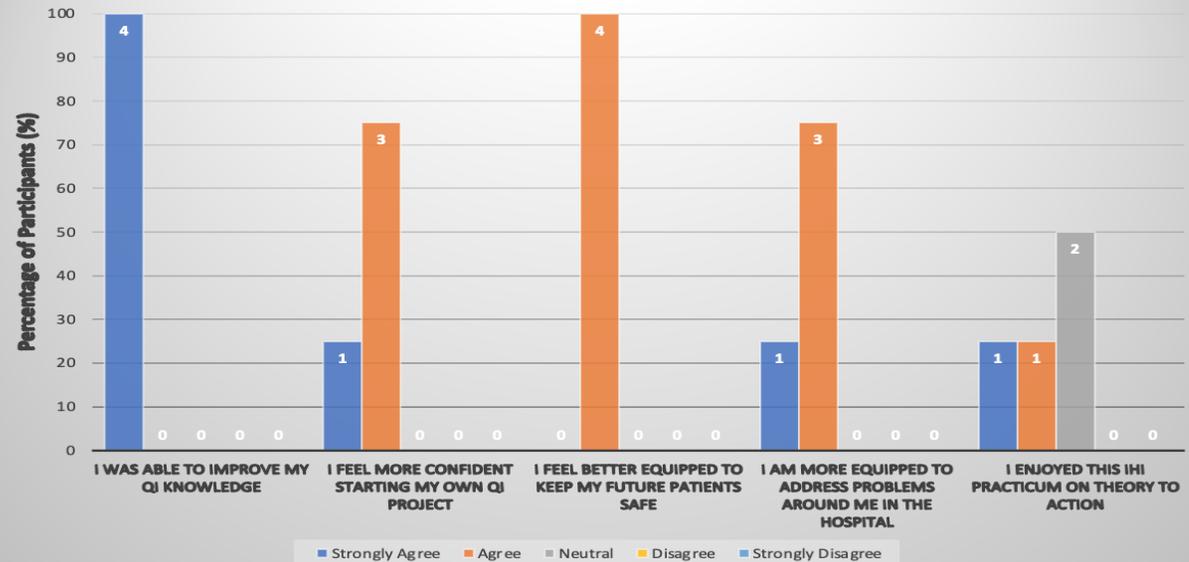
Students applied their knowledge to a QI project of their choosing in their immediate environment.



After completing the practicum, students were assessed using a 5-question Likert Scale survey examining perceived growth as well as a qualitative assessment.

RESULTS

Evaluating Perceived Growth from IHI Practicum



RESULTS CONTINUED

Lessons Learned:

- "I gained experience creating a project in a clinical setting"
- "The practicum taught me how to view systems as evolving structures."
- "I learned the importance of consulting multiple stakeholders and to integrate multiple members in the project in order to have more support in completing the project."

CONCLUSIONS

- This QI practicum was effective for students to learn more about QI and gain confidence in starting a QI project.
- Overall, participation in this online course increased QI knowledge, and will be utilized in the future to positively impact patients in healthcare settings.

FURTHER STUDY

- While we recognize these results are preliminary due to the sample size, we have a new cohort of 9 students participating in the practicum currently and will continue to conduct further research.
- Further work includes assessing the longitudinal impact of the practicum on student involvement in quality involvement projects.
- Although more study is needed, it is our hope that participation will translate to medical students becoming involved in QI to improve our health systems and ultimately patient care.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sponsor: Wayne State University School of Medicine Alumni Association and Office of Medical Student Research Programs

Sources: 1. Kohn LT, Corrigan JM, Donaldson MS, eds. To err is human; building a safer health system. Washington: National Academy Press, 2000.