Impact of a pipeline program for early exposure of diverse students to plastic and reconstructive surgery
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Introduction

- Healthcare Early Access for Diverse Students Underrepresented in Plastic Surgery (HEADSUP) is a pipeline program implemented by a group of residents, medical students, and undergraduate students in the Atlanta area with the goal of increasing early exposure to Plastic Surgery.
- Current trends in physician representation do not reflect the diverse patient population in the US, particularly among surgical subspecialties (1).
- Targeted mentorship for underrepresented minority (URM) students has shown to improve experiential opportunities and promote pursuit of competitive surgical subspecialties (1).
- This study details program impact for an introductory plastic and reconstructive surgery (PRS) pipeline program implemented in Atlanta.

Methods

- Participants were recruited from Morehouse School of Medicine and Georgia State University.
- Recruitment was conducted through pre-medical interest groups, class emails, and anatomy lab flyers.
- Surveys were administered at the beginning and end of each event evaluating interest in and familiarity with PRS and introductory concepts.

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey Question</th>
<th>Pre-survey N (%)</th>
<th>Post-survey N (%)</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interest in Surgical Career (answer: yes)</td>
<td>19 (70.4)</td>
<td>21 (77.8)</td>
<td>0.5344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest in Plastic Surgery Career (answer: yes)</td>
<td>11 (42.3)</td>
<td>14 (51.5)</td>
<td>0.4867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-Reported Comprehension of Plastic Surgery (answer: yes)</td>
<td>9 (33.3)</td>
<td>22 (81.5)</td>
<td>0.0003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of Top of Reconstructive Ladder (correct response)</td>
<td>2 (7.4)</td>
<td>24 (88.9)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of flap vs. graft (correct response)</td>
<td>5 (22.2)</td>
<td>24 (88.9)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary and Conclusions

- Diversity among current physicians and surgeons does not mirror that of the US population, leading to poorer health outcomes among diverse patients (1-2).
- The goal of HEADSUP is to bridge the gap in recruitment of URM students to plastic surgery through structured education and mentorship opportunities.
- The program curriculum was implemented in Atlanta and designed to be reproduced in other cities and among other specialties.
- Future program direction includes design and implementation of a longitudinal program curriculum along with collaboration with other surgical subspecialties.

Figure 1. Pre-surveys were administered at the beginning of the program and post-surveys at the conclusion of case presentations. Two sample tests of proportion were used to compare categorical responses and paired t-tests were performed to compare means.