University of Pittsburg Medical Center for Rehab Services Orthopedic Physical Therapy Residency

Interview by Tamara K. Kirk with Keelan Enseki, Director, Orthopedic Physical Therapy Residency at UPMC. Center for Rehab Services, June 2018. Keelan’s contact info is: ensekikr@upmc.edu

CONTENT AREA:  Professionalism and Leadership

UPMC - Non-profit structure.

Early on in the residency, each resident attends a “Primer/Crucial Conversation” activity. UPMC is in their 3rd year of implementing this. It is a 1 – 3 hour talk/discussion (in person) that is held within the first month of residency. It is led and taught by an accomplished leader within the organization. They choose someone who is usually a clinician and has made a large impact in the field. The last two years both speakers were someone in an administrative role. This past year, the speaker was VP of outpatient services. UPMC has quite a few residency programs and they send all of the residents to this.

It covers various topics surrounding professionalism including:

- How to develop professionally
- How to move up the administrative ladder while maintaining clinical practice
- Networking
- How to look at the broader vision of the field and specialty area

The session eventually becomes more of an open forum where the speaker will speak to each resident individually as to how they feel they may use this information provided. The program will often incorporate some of this information into goals for the resident.

Residents are also required to attend CSM and annual Orthopaedic Section meeting.

Evaluation of the learning activity

As far as challenges, none really at this point. They may want to standardize it a bit more however they don’t want to limit the content.

As far as this being an innovative, exceptional resource, they thought that having this contact and connection with someone so well accomplished was quite special. Especially so early on in the residency. It’s also a small group format, so low stress, non-intimidating and an interactive format.

For any improvement, they thought that maybe a follow up later on in the program would be helpful, just to see how the resident was able to integrate some of the information into their practice. This activity is exceptional and a resource worth sharing across specialty areas. It is broad based and not specific to any specialty area in particular. It is a valuable learning tool for each resident on how to become successful in various aspects of their profession. This topic may not be routinely addressed in residency programs.