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57 UNC EM Boot Camp Boosts Confidence Levels of Graduating Medical Students Entering EM Residency Programs

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Introduction/Background: Many businesses have used some type of Boot Camp, modeled after military training, to serve as an immersion orientation for new hires. This idea has been incorporated into medical training for interns, primarily in the surgical specialties. In light of the Next Accreditation System and clarified expectations for new medical school graduates- skill level, we saw a need for our students to start EM residency with basic EM specific skills that they may not have gathered from medical school.

In April of 2012 and 2013, graduating UNC medical students who had matched in EM voluntarily enrolled in the UNC Boot Camp program. The students received 2 days of didactic, simulation, and procedural instruction. At the end of EM Boot Camp, medical students completed surveys of their confidence levels with the material reviewed in the courses. The study participants were re-surveyed in August of their intern year.

Educational Objectives: The objective of this educational innovation is to prepare graduating medical students to function more effectively in the ED when they start EM internship. The courses focused on common ED procedures and topics central to EM practice.

Curricular Design: The students attended didactic lectures in the mornings and skills labs and simulation labs in the afternoons. Topics covered in 2013 were modified in response to 2012 surveys (Table 1).

Table 1. EM Boot Camp courses by year.

2012	2013
ED Ultrasound	ED Ultrasound
Pediatric Fever	Interpreting EKGs
Interpreting EKGs	Interpreting Radiographs
Simulation Center: Critical Care	Simulation Center: Critical Care
Antibiotic Selection	Slit Lamp Exams
Splinting	Splinting
Identifying Sick Patients	Identifying Sick Patients
Abdominal Pain in the ED	Geriatric EM
Making the Most of Intern Year	Decision Rules in the ED
EM Jeopardy (Review Questions of EM)	Managing Typical Floor Calls When Off Service

Impact/Effectiveness: Eighteen out of 21 eligible students chose to participate in the survey. Survey responses were almost universally positive. The participants favorably viewed their EM Boot Camp experience and felt that it helped them prepare for intern year. This sentiment remained for most students when they were surveyed after the start of their internship. A small number of students indicated a decrease in confidence in the subject matter after beginning internship. Students gave feedback favoring more simulation lab, procedures, and hands on learning (Table 2).

Table 2. Confidence with Boot Camp topics (on average).

Boot Camp Course	2012		2013	
	At the End of Boot Camp	August of Intern Year	At the End of Boot Camp	August of Intern Year
Interpreting EKGs	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.7
Splinting	3.7	3.5	3.2	3.1
Pediatric Fever	3.7	3.1	3.5	3.6
Identifying Sick Patients	4.0	3.7	3.6	3.9
ED Ultrasounds	3.6	3.3	2.5	2.9
Overall Helpfulness	4.7	4.3	4.9	4.8