Professionalism Curriculum Guide

This curriculum was designed and implemented into a residency program at a major academic center in Boston, MA as the result of an AUR Professionalism and Ethics grant. Attached are 9 separate sessions. Most sessions entail a series of case scenarios that serve as a launching pad for an open discussion and reflection on the specific topic being covered. The goal was to raise awareness of key topics related to professionalism and ethics and for residents to learn from each other about how to best tackle some of these challenging situations.

In our program, we held these sessions for 1-1.5 hours during protected didactic time during which we served breakfast. For some of the sessions, we had pre-session assignments, whereas for others, residents just arrived and participated that morning. For most sessions, the cases were distributed ahead of time so that residents could reflect on them and hence provide more meaningful comments.

Each session was moderated by the program directors. For the session on apology, we invited a risk manager to join the conversation. For all sessions, a lawyer was present since one of our program directors holds a law degree. The legal perspective was particularly useful for several of the topics.

We hope that this material will be of use to your trainees. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any specific questions regarding implementation at pslanetz@bidmc.harvard.edu.