

The Brainstorming Project: an Initiative to Increase Scholarly Productivity in a Large Internal Medicine Program

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INTRODUCTION

- In the academic year 2014-2015, only 13 of our 130 residents published papers and 5 presented posters at meetings. From the ACGME annual survey results, only 44% of our residents acknowledged the existence of scholarly opportunities.

OVERALL GOALS OF THE PROJECT

- Improve perception of scholarly productivity in our division, and increase the scholarly visibility in the medical community through publication of more peer-reviewed articles, presentation in local, state, national and international meetings.
- Ultimately, strengthen fellowship applications, faculty curricula, and attract stronger candidates to our program.

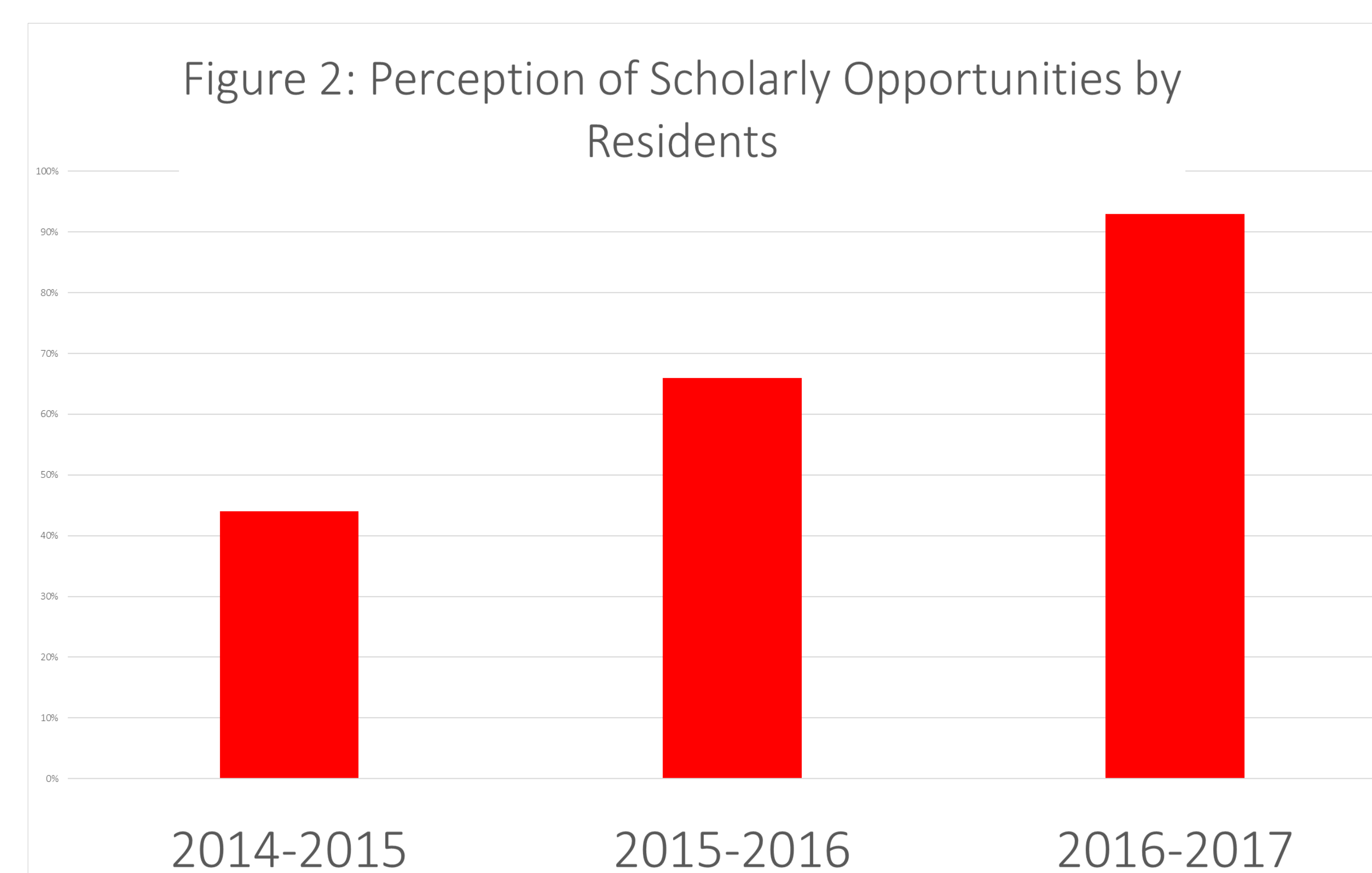
DESCRIPTION OF THE INTERVENTION

- The Scholarly Brainstorming consists of monthly meetings at the end of each ward block. Residents and students met in groups to discuss what they have seen that month with potential for publication as case reports, case series, retrospective or prospective research, literature reviews and/or quality improvement projects. Faculty member with research experience were there to facilitate the discussions.
- The ideas were collectively discussed, first in small groups and then at large; mentors and timetables were assigned and discussed by follow up emails and at meetings. The research ideas were then entered in a tracking database, and followed until presented in conferences, published or abandoned.

RESULTS TO DATE

	residents	articles	residents	posters	residents	book chapters
2014-2015	13	41	5	9	0	0
2015-2016	14	31	53	128	2	2
2016-2017	28	89	124	248	9	9

- Figure 1: progress in the number of residents involved, number of peer-reviewed publications, number of posters presented in conferences, and books or book chapters.



- Figure 2 : change in residents perceptions regarding scholarly opportunities in our program, in response to the ACGME survey.

DISCUSSION

- Scholarly productivity increased significantly after the introduction of this project.
- While the ACGME doesn't require residents to generate scholarly productivity, the experience gained doing so is valuable for a successful research experience during fellowships, where such activity is expected [1]. One study, however, showed poor correlation between residency and fellowship number of publications [2]. The ACGME focus is rather on learning the research tools, than on outcomes in terms of publications [3]. We believe our approach opened doors to early collaboration, mentoring by senior researchers, and increased productivity.

REFLECTIONS / LESSONS LEARNED

- Even when many of the published or presented projects were not originated at the Brainstorming sessions, the impact of this program seems to be linked to a boosting effect on the perception of scholarly opportunities. Since the project started, residents reached out to mentors more often, and this effect is passed to the next generation of residents. The project is held in one of our 4 hospital platforms. Exporting the experience to the others might impact our scholarly productivity further.

REFERENCES

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