INTRODUCTION

• The learning style of a millennial resident is significantly different from that of senior faculty who trained with traditional textbooks, informational repetition and classroom lectures (1).
• We expect 100% pass rate on the ABIM certifying examination, but we realized that resident schedules and other competing demands often prohibit daily informational review outside of duty hours.

• The millennial generation (born between 1980 and 2000) relies heavily on the use of text messages and cell phones to communicate.
• We developed an innovative way to motivate our senior residents by creating a Pearl of the Day (POD) question which was distributed through the messaging application, WhatsApp.

BACKGROUND

• Our program consists of 44 residents, 15 per year of training.
• Riverside Methodist Hospital is an 800 bed tertiary care hospital that is the main referral center for multiple member hospitals in the OhioHealth system.

GOALS

• Optimal medical practice is a commitment to life-long learning and performance with recertification mandates.
• We developed a project to motivate daily reading and emphasis on core teaching objectives linked with daily activities in order to enhance memory and recall.

METHODS

• Between January and August 2016, a POD was prepared by a faculty member and sent to the learning group which included 12 senior residents and 2 faculty members.
• The POD consisted of hypothetical cases using the residents’ names as the providers, food associations, topics from daily noon conference, in-training exam objectives, current events, and celebrity health issues.
• Although several options were available, we selected WhatsApp as it allowed us unlimited character lengths, texts, and photos.

• The POD was sent between 7-8 PM every day, a time selected by faculty member and sent to the learning group which included 12 senior residents and 2 faculty members.
• The Five R’s of Engaging Millennial Students (2)

• Research:
  - They need a broad spectrum of learning formats in order to maintain attention.
• Relevance:
  - They do not value information for its own sake but rather for its relevance to their training, development and achievement of goals.
• Rationale:
  - They are more likely to respond when instructors provide rationale behind policies and regulations.
• Relaxed:
  - They prefer a relaxed learning environment in which they can informally interact with freedom for personal creativity and expression.
• Rapport:
  - They prefer instructors who show a personal interest in their training, development and achievement of goals.

RESULTS TO DATE

• 100% of the residents passed the 2016 ABIM certifying exam.
• A post exercise survey was sent to all the residents who participated in the daily WhatsApp exercise.
• Most of the residents (86%) would recommend this exercise to a colleague.
• While this is only one facet of an overall educational plan, all of the residents reported that the associations and links from the exercise aided memory recall and proved applicable during the ABIM examination as well as in daily practice.