

2021-22 Transformational Ideas Initiative Project

Medicine in Real Life



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Project Background

First year didactic courses do not expose medical students to the realities of medicine. Unless students have had prior work experiences with healthcare delivery, they often have little knowledge regarding crucial components of their future practice. In order to provide more competent, patient-centered care, students need earlier exposure to topics such as interprofessional teamwork, care coordination, and healthcare financing early in their academic careers. This project aims to develop learning applications in Health Systems Science starting at the beginning of medical school.

Project Plan

Our team will create a series of exercises to better prepare first year medical students for residency and beyond. Instructional content will be developed collaboratively with current residents and social workers to ensure material is relevant and presented effectively. Exercises will include interprofessional education sessions with social workers and social work students. Students will also be provided a reference sheet for local resources (free clinics, transportation, diet programs, childcare, etc). For healthcare financing education, we will partner with the Benjamin Rush Institute.

By integrating Health Systems Science modules into the curriculum, we hope to:

- Increase interprofessional collaboration to foster systemic change
- Enable students to provide more compassionate care
- Improve student competence and comfort
- Improve quality of patient care