



Society of Rural Physicians of Canada
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SESSION 152

Quality Improvement in Rural Research

One of the strategic goals of the Office of Distributed Education is to increase the research capacity of physicians across the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry's distributed sites. To better understand the needs of its decentralized faculty a research initiative was created to identify barriers and facilitators to research engagement for decentralized faculty. A total of 54 in-person interviews were conducted with faculty located in distributed sites. Barriers most commonly included time, lack of skills and the unique practice context many physicians in distributed sites face. Improvements to patient care and personal interest were the most common facilitators. Quality Improvement (QI) may address these concerns while also increasing the research capacity of our decentralized physicians. QI presents an approachable methodology for physicians with limited institutional resources to engage in rigorous research. While QI has been utilized in healthcare for several decades, many physicians are unclear as to its role in a clinical setting, how to best implement QI and how QI may differ from traditional research. This workshop will function to introduce the concept of QI, highlight similarities and differences to research, use a case-study approach to critique QI initiatives and formulate QI projects for the participants. This workshop is intended for participants who: are interested in pursuing an approachable research project, want a deeper understanding of QI methodology or have clinical inefficiencies they want to address.

1. Define QI.
2. Explain the differences and similarities between QI and research.
3. Review and critically appraise QI projects.
4. Propose a QI project given a case study.