

Promoting Undergraduate Pain Education

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Start in 2018 through the title of IASP Global year for Excellence in Pain Education professional education is one of four areas that pain education will focus.

The widespread prevalence of pain demonstrates the need for comprehensive pain education for all health-care professionals although not all require the same type of pain-related knowledge and skills. The outline of curricula should provide a basic overview of suggested topics for interprofessional learning. It does not replace the uni professional curricula that provide additional depth in content required by each individual profession and discipline. It remains uncertain how the field of pain medicine will evolve to meet the needs of our patients, whether it will become a discrete discipline, a distinct residency, or simply grow to one year fellowship within the subspecialty of anesthesiology, but there is a need to review the role of medical education at the medical school including its current status, challenges, and opportunities in the changing field of pain medicine.

Undergraduate pain education is a critical early step in ensuring that health care practitioners entering the workforce are competent in pain management. However, only few medical school could identify designated pain content hours in their undergraduate curricula. While pain teaching was assumed to be 'integrated' in other courses, it was not quantifiable and therefore not able to be determined the content hours. However, it is clear that training and education should be structured not only in an interdisciplinary manner but also in which practitioners work together as team for the most valuable and efficient exchange of ideas and treatment modalities. Many experts commented on the need for pain-related curriculum through a interprofessional programme.

Regardless of the way in which the need is met, the future goal of pain medicine curricula should focus on how we can best improve the health and functional outcomes of our patients.