Community Outreach by Dermatology Education (CODE)
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Background/Objective
The CODE project was proposed in 2016 to expand the weekly grand rounds style morphology education sessions to include rural providers. A grant from Pfizer provided the funding for a joint OHSU Dermatology and Oregon Dermatology Society project. The innovative use of videoconferencing technology in the morphology sessions will allow for the extension of provider education and patient care to the region and will enable the sharing of knowledge and expertise, thus improving education, communication, and patient care.

Current State
Existing educational opportunities for many providers in the Northwest region of the United States are few, due to their distance from the larger metro areas of Portland and Seattle. The weekly morphology education sessions at OHSU in Portland are an opportunity for providers to not only learn about the presentation, management, and diagnosis of skin disorders, but are also an opportunity to present and get feedback on patients with unusual or difficult disease manifestations, via consultation with other dermatologists, researchers, and dermatology trainees.

Program Goals
Videoconferencing the OHSU Dermatology morphology sessions allows for providers all over the region to access a number of specialty dermatologists, trainees, researchers, and mid-level providers.

The CODE project’s aims are to:
- Create a website portal for a weekly CME experience, which incorporates video conference system access and peer-to-peer communication. The website is under development and should go live in spring 2017.
- Create a database of skin disorders and treatment plans, as presented by the audience, which would then be a source of data for research and quality improvement efforts. The database has been created in RedCap and is being tested.
- Create a communication network that connects specialty and sub-specialty providers across the region to improve patient care and professional satisfaction.
- Track satisfaction with the morphology (CODE) conferences, results of discussions regarding patient care, case characteristics, and the identification of skin conditions that may need additional research and/or study.

This IRB-approved study is under review.

Impact and Conclusions
The testing phase of the CODE program has resulted in great excitement from our dermatology community, but also from other specialties. The database of morphology discussions, presentations, and didactic reviews is expected to be invaluable for our trainees and our community peers. The weekly interactions with the OHSU educational community will be of great educational import to rural patients and providers in our region, reaching to all areas to provide live patient consultations and advice. In addition, it will allow trainees to participate in patient care for rural patient populations not easily accessible from the metro area.

Next Steps
The CODE project will go live in Spring 2017. Data from the sessions will be available for mining projects within six months. After one year of operation, the program, surveys, and educational impact will be assessed and adjustments made as necessary. A similar system is already being considered for the OHSU and Providence Joint Melanoma Tumor Board.

References and Acknowledgements
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