How publishing a case report changed me

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Retinopathy and Uveitis Associated with Sofosbuvir Therapy for Chronic Hepatitis C Infection

- Encountered an interesting patient in clinic as a resident
- Patient developed retinopathy after initiating treatment with a novel therapy for hepatitis C
- Retinopathy was a known side effect of older interferon-based hepatitis C treatments, but not reported with this new class of medications
How has writing and publishing a case report changed me?
Prioritizes time management

“I’ve learned that I always underestimate the time it takes... Just start writing.”

–FR

All quotations in this presentation are taken from past or present Howard Ophthalmology residents or from student experiences published in Packer et al. 2016.
“Delving into the literature enhanced my ability to critically analyze any gaps in the medical community’s awareness about the condition.” –CLI
Increases my fund of knowledge

• During review of the existing body of literature:
  • Identify the gap in the current body of knowledge as well as your personal knowledge
  • Develop skills to critically analyze and interpret findings
Changes the lens through which I view my patients

“My patients did not change, but my perspective did.” –JDK

“The experience... has underscored the importance of pausing to reflect on what I see every day in the hospital.” –CLI
Changes the lens through which I view my patients
“At one of my residency interviews, a program director shared with me that his residents had found my case in a literature search and used it to help diagnose a similar patient, who is now doing well.” –CLI

“I received invitations... from major medical journals to review other articles on similar topics, and from conference organizers to discuss the case described in my report.”

–RBK
Creates an opportunity for networking

Intramural

• Discussion and work across disciplines
  • Different departments
  • Doctors, nurses, staff
• Potential for input across a range of experience

Extramural

• Contact people with similar findings outside your institution
• Open doors/talking points for meeting people or advancement (conferences, interviews)
Leads to academia or funded research projects

“The excitement of acceptance and official publication fueled a fire for further academic writing.” —RBK

“I never really considered academia but after working on my case report I could see myself doing academic research in the future.” —CO

“The experience has certainly sparked my interest... in actively contributing to medical literature.” —CLI
My challenge to you

Research and write case reports or presentations!

Your work could potentially change the field.

Even if you do not drastically change the field, you will become a better clinician and academic in the process.

And now to learn how to get your work published...
Thank you