

Title: Research Appetite: A Novel Approach to Building Research Capacity in Family Medicine

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Abstract: Background: Since the founding of the family medicine specialty more than five decades ago, a significant number of efforts to increase research capacity have greatly contributed to the advancement of our discipline. Yet the existing state of research mechanisms available to medical students and residents falls short of its potential. This study aims to build and evaluate the effectiveness of an online platform for generating incremental scholarship through asynchronous mentorship in development of clinician-researchers. Methods: Identify and pair up “research curious” medical students and family medicine residents whose co-learning of the research process will be guided by a faculty mentor. The scholars will be able to choose from a “menu” of research projects, each of which will be divided into “bite-sized” component tasks with associated learning objectives based on predefined research competencies and expected time commitment. A project management platform will be used to facilitate research workflow asynchronously. A mixed-methods approach will be used to capture the impact of the proposed platform on the development of research skills of study participants, its effect on nurturing a collaborative community of family medicine researchers across multiple levels of training, and associated quantitative metrics of engagement and productivity, such as the number of engaged scholars and disseminated projects.