



President's Symposium: Advocacy in action

Psychiatry residency program directors play a central role in ensuring that residents advance advocacy within graduate medical education and mental health systems. However, many lack formal training and structured opportunities to develop and model advocacy competencies. This gap limits their ability to integrate advocacy into curricula, engage in policy initiatives, and prepare trainees to address systemic inequities and disinformation in mental health.

Methods: This educational session will combine brief didactic presentations with interactive exercises to build advocacy knowledge and practical skills. Participants will analyze challenges in advocacy integration, apply strategies for curriculum development, and utilize communication techniques for stakeholder engagement.

Results: Participants will appreciate the importance of the role of advocacy in supporting trainees, patients, and programs, and will create individualized action plans to strengthen advocacy engagement within their leadership roles.

Conclusions: Building advocacy capacity among psychiatry residency program directors promotes educational innovation, advances trainee well-being, and reinforces psychiatry's leadership in shaping equitable, informed mental health policy.