

APPENDIX

Supplementary Figure 1. Survey instrument.

Perceptions, opinions, and perspectives of leaders in urology education on the role of urology and surgical interest groups across Canada: a cross-sectional survey study

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Introduction:

The Canadian Urology Student Interest Group (CUSIG) (a Canadian Urological Association (CUA) sponsored national urology interest group), as part of a quality improvement initiative/research study, are conducting a survey on the perceptions, opinions, and perspectives of leaders in urology education in Canada on urology and surgical interest groups. We are looking for responses from Urology program directors, members of the Canadian Undergraduate Urology Curriculum (CanUUC), and other staff urologists involved in urology education across Canada. Please note that your participation is completely voluntary, and all information collected in this survey is anonymous.

The survey will take approximately 6-8 minutes.

Section 1: Baseline information

Number of years in practice?

☐ < 10 years
☐ 10-20 years
☐ >20 years
☐ Prefer not to say

Gender identity of respondent?

☐ Male
☐ Female
☐ Non-binary
☐ Prefer to self describe (describe below):
☐ Prefer not to say

If you selected 'Prefer to self-describe,' please specify your description below:

In what specific educator role(s), and/or in what capacity/stage of training, have you been involved in urology education?

☐ None
☐ Post graduate training program director
☐ Undergraduate education program director
☐ University representative on national education committee (e.g. Canadian Undergraduate Urology Curriculum (CanUUC) committee)
☐ University representative on a local education committee
☐ Member of Royal College Education Committee
☐ Pre-clerkship
☐ Clerkship
☐ Residency
☐ Fellowship
☐ Continuing medical education
☐ Research mentorship
☐ Other (describe below):

If you selected 'Other,' please specify your description below:

Section 2: Involvement as a medical student

Were you ever involved (e.g. member or attended events) in any specialty interest groups as a medical student?

- ☐ No
☐ Yes
☐ I am not sure/not applicable

What kind of interest groups were you involved with as a medical student? (check all that apply)

- ☐ Urology-specific interest group
☐ Other surgical specialty-specific interest group (e.g. neurosurgery interest group, cardiac surgery interest group, etc.)
☐ Combined surgery interest group (i.e. one group involved in multiple surgical specialties)
☐ Women in surgery interest group
☐ Other (describe below):

If you selected 'Other,' please specify your description below:

On a scale of 1-5, how actively were you involved in interest groups as a medical student?

- ☐ 1) Not at all involved
☐ 2) Slightly involved ☐ 3) Moderately involved
☐ 4) Very involved
☐ 5) Extremely involved
☐ I am not sure/not applicable

On a scale of 1-5, how much did your involvement in interest groups as a medical student influence your decision to pursue urology?

- ☐ 1) Not at all influential
☐ 2) Slightly influential
☐ 3) Moderately influential
☐ 4) Very influential ☐ 5) Extremely influential
☐ I am not sure/not applicable

Section 3: Involvement as a mentor/staff

Are there currently any urology or surgery-related interest groups at your institution?

- ☐ No
☐ Yes- Urology-specific
☐ Yes- Surgery-related
☐ Yes- Both
☐ I am not sure/not applicable

What kind of events/initiatives have they held?

- ☐ None
☐ Academic lectures
☐ Clinical skills workshop
☐ Networking events
☐ Mentorship opportunities/programs
☐ Research initiatives/collaborations
☐ Shadowing opportunities/programs
☐ Other (describe below)
☐ I am not sure/not applicable

If you selected 'Other,' please specify your description below:

Have you ever been personally involved in a urology or surgery-related interest group as a mentor? (i.e. resident, fellow, staff)

- ☐ No
☐ Yes
☐ I am not sure/not applicable

As a mentor, on a scale of 1-5, how actively were you involved?

- ☐ Not at all involved
☐ Slightly involved
☐ Moderately involved
☐ Very involved
☐ Extremely involved
☐ I am not sure/not applicable

If you were personally involved, which activities were you involved in? Check all that apply.

- ☐ None
☐ Gave lectures
☐ Taught a clinical skills workshop
☐ Participated in networking events
☐ Guided/mentored interest group members
☐ Supervised research projects (stemmed from or related to interest group students/events)
☐ Supervised non-research initiatives
☐ Provided shadowing opportunities (stemmed from or related to interest group students/events)
☐ Other (describe below)
☐ I am not sure/not applicable

If you selected 'Other,' please specify your description below:

Please rate your experience(s) on a scale of 1-5

- ☐ 1) Extremely negative
☐ 2) Negative
☐ 3) Neutral
☐ 4) Positive
☐ 5) Extremely positive
☐ I am not sure/not applicable

Please describe your experience with the interest group activities

In your interactions in these events, what best describes the majority of students who participate in these interest group activities?

- ☐ Students who are undecided/have very little knowledge about surgery/urology and want to gain broad exposure
☐ Students who have some interest in surgery/urology and want to gain more knowledge about these specialties
☐ Students who are already highly interested in pursuing surgery/urology, and want to learn from and network with staff and residents
☐ Mix of multiple groups mentioned above OR Other (please describe further below:)
☐ I am not sure/not applicable

If you selected 'Mix of multiple groups mentioned above OR Other' above, please specify your description below:

Do you believe that the current urology/surgery interest groups at your institution are sufficiently designed and active?

- ☐ 1) Strongly disagree
☐ 2) Disagree
☐ 3) Neutral
☐ 4) Agree
☐ 5) Strongly agree
☐ I am not sure/not applicable

On a scale of 1-5, what is your level of interest in being involved in urology or surgery-related interest groups?

- ☐ 1) Not at all interested
☐ 2) Not very interested
☐ 3) Neutral
☐ 4) Interested
☐ 5) Very interested
☐ I am not sure/not applicable

If you are not currently involved, what are the reasons? Check all that apply.

- ☐ No reason
☐ No interest group at home institution
☐ Interest groups exist, but lack of initiatives or student champions/organizers
☐ Lack of time due to clinical/research obligations
☐ Not applicable- I am involved and/or interested
☐ Other (describe below):

If you selected 'Other,' please specify your description below:

Section 4: General questions about interest groups

Do you believe that your institution's undergraduate curriculum is providing sufficient exposure to urology for students during pre-clinical years?	☐ 1) Strongly disagree ☐ 2) Disagree ☐ 3) Neutral ☐ 4) Agree ☐ 5) Strongly agree ☐ I am not sure/not applicable
Do you believe that urology or surgery-related interest groups can help foster mentoring relationships?	☐ 1) Strongly disagree ☐ 2) Disagree ☐ 3) Neutral ☐ 4) Agree ☐ 5) Strongly agree ☐ I am not sure/not applicable
Do you believe that urology or surgery-related interest groups help foster research collaborations?	☐ 1) Strongly disagree ☐ 2) Disagree ☐ 3) Neutral ☐ 4) Agree ☐ 5) Strongly agree ☐ I am not sure/not applicable
Do you believe that student involvement in urology or surgery-related interest groups is a useful indicator of their interest in the specialty?	☐ 1) Strongly disagree ☐ 2) Disagree ☐ 3) Neutral ☐ 4) Agree ☐ 5) Strongly agree ☐ I am not sure/not applicable
Do you believe that student involvement in urology or surgery-related interest groups impacts the career choices of medical students in Canada?	☐ 1) Strongly disagree ☐ 2) Disagree ☐ 3) Neutral ☐ 4) Agree ☐ 5) Strongly agree ☐ I am not sure/not applicable
Do you believe that urology or surgery-related interest groups can play a role in promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) within the field of urology?	☐ 1) Strongly disagree ☐ 2) Disagree ☐ 3) Neutral ☐ 4) Agree ☐ 5) Strongly agree ☐ I am not sure/not applicable
What specific interest group initiatives do you think are most effective in promoting urology education amongst medical students? Check all that apply.	☐ Academic lectures ☐ Clinical skills workshops ☐ Networking events ☐ Mentorship programs connecting students and residents/staff ☐ Research projects/collaborations ☐ Shadowing opportunities/programs ☐ Social media engagement (e.g. advertisements/reminders for events) ☐ Educational resources (e.g. podcasts, webinars) ☐ Other (describe below): ☐ I am not sure/not applicable

If you selected 'Other,' please specify your description below:

What changes would you suggest to improve the effectiveness of urology or surgery-related interest groups in promoting urology education? _____

Were you aware of the Canadian Urology Student Interest Group (CUSIG) prior to this survey?

- ☐ No
☐ Yes
-

Information about CUSIG:

The Canadian Urology Student Interest Group (CUSIG) is a Canadian Urological Association (CUA) sponsored, student-led initiative that was created to be a national hub for medical trainees interested in urology. Our goal is to foster a sense of community in urology across Canada at all levels, from medical student to staff, and provide opportunities to get involved with the specialty of urology through research, mentorship, and education.

Do you believe that a national interest group such as CUSIG has an important role in advancing urology education in Canada?

- ☐ 1) Strongly disagree
☐ 2) Disagree
☐ 3) Neutral
☐ 4) Agree
☐ 5) Strongly agree
☐ I am not sure/not applicable
-

What do you believe should be the main goals/focus of a national interest group such as CUSIG? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Expanding general exposure to urology for students
☐ Increasing education on specific urological topics
☐ Increasing access to research in urology
☐ Fostering collaborations between students, residents, and staff
☐ Promoting equity, diversity and inclusivity within the field of urology
☐ Other (describe below)
☐ I am not sure/not applicable
-

If you selected 'Other,' please specify your description below: _____

Do you have any concerns or perceived challenges about the establishment of a national specialty interest group such as CUSIG? Check all that apply.

- ☐ None
☐ Maintaining continuity- inconsistent transition/handover to new executives
☐ Lack of awareness or engagement from students
☐ Lack of awareness, engagement, or support from residents and staff
☐ Geographical and institutional barriers- difficulty coordinating between medical schools
☐ Equity, diversity and inclusivity - ensuring representation of diverse student backgrounds, ensuring events are welcoming and inclusive
☐ Other (describe below):
☐ I am not sure/not applicable
-

If you selected 'Other,' please specify your description below: _____

Finally, do you have any other general feedback, comments or concerns regarding urology education in Canada? _____

Chae et al. Stakeholder perspectives on undergraduate urology education in Canada: The roles of urology and surgery interest groups and the Canadian Urology Student Interest Group

Supplementary Table 1. Perspectives on urology and surgery interest groups	
Questions	n (%)
Do you believe that your institution's undergraduate curriculum is providing sufficient exposure to urology for students during pre-clinical years?	
1) Strongly disagree	9/43 (20.9%)
2) Disagree	18/43 (41.9%)
3) Neutral	9/43 (20.9%)
4) Agree	4/43 (9.3%)
5) Strongly agree	0/43 (0.0%)
I am not sure/not applicable	3/43 (7.0%)
Mean $\pm$ SD	2.20 $\pm$ 0.91 (n=40)
Do you believe that urology or surgery-related interest groups can help foster mentoring relationships?	
1) Strongly disagree	0/43 (0.0%)
2) Disagree	0/43 (0.0%)
3) Neutral	6/43 (14.0%)
4) Agree	27/43 (62.8%)
5) Strongly agree	9/43 (20.9%)
I am not sure/not applicable	1/43 (2.3%)
Mean $\pm$ SD	4.07 $\pm$ 0.60 (n=42)
Do you believe that urology or surgery-related interest groups help foster research collaborations?	
1) Strongly disagree	0/43 (0.0%)
2) Disagree	2/43 (4.7%)
3) Neutral	3/43 (7.0%)
4) Agree	27/43 (62.8%)
5) Strongly agree	9/43 (20.9%)
I am not sure/not applicable	2/43 (4.7%)
Mean $\pm$ SD	4.05 $\pm$ 0.71 (n=41)
Do you believe that student involvement in urology or surgery-related interest groups is a useful indicator of their interest in the specialty?	
1) Strongly disagree	0/43 (0.0%)
2) Disagree	1/43 (2.3%)
3) Neutral	13/43 (30.2%)
4) Agree	21/43 (48.8%)
5) Strongly agree	8/43 (18.6%)
I am not sure/not applicable	0/43 (0.0%)

Mean $\pm$ SD	3.84 $\pm$ 0.75 (n=43)
Do you believe that student involvement in urology or surgery-related interest groups impacts the career choices of medical students in Canada?	
1) Strongly disagree	0/42 (0.0%)
2) Disagree	2/42 (4.8%)
3) Neutral	8/42 (19.0%)
4) Agree	22/42 (52.4%)
5) Strongly agree	6/42 (14.3%)
I am not sure/not applicable	4/42 (9.5%)
Mean $\pm$ SD	3.84 $\pm$ 0.75 (n=38)
Do you believe that urology or surgery-related interest groups can play a role in promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) within the field of urology?	
1) Strongly disagree	3/43 (7.0%)
2) Disagree	4/43 (9.3%)
3) Neutral	7/43 (16.3%)
4) Agree	17/43 (39.5%)
5) Strongly agree	4/43 (9.3%)
I am not sure/not applicable	8/43 (18.6%)
Mean $\pm$ SD	3.43 $\pm$ 1.12 (n=35)
What specific interest group initiatives do you think are most effective in promoting urology education amongst medical students? (Check all that apply)	
Academic lectures	20/43 (46.5%)
Clinical skills workshops	23/43 (53.5%)
Networking events	23/43 (53.5%)
Mentorship programs connecting students and residents/staff	29/43 (67.4%)
Research projects/collaborations	25/43 (58.1%)
Shadowing opportunities/programs	37/43 (86.0%)
Social media engagement (e.g. advertisements/reminders for events)	8/43 (18.6%)
Educational resources (e.g. podcasts, webinars)	15/43 (34.9%)
Other (describe below):	0/43 (0.0%)
I am not sure/not applicable	2/43 (4.7%)

Chae et al. Stakeholder perspectives on undergraduate urology education in Canada: The roles of urology and surgery interest groups and the Canadian Urology Student Interest Group

Supplementary Table 2. Involvement in urology and surgery interest groups of respondents as a medical student	
Questions	n (%)
Were you ever involved (e.g. member or attended events) in any specialty interest groups as a medical student?	
No	22/43 (51.2%)
Yes	18/43 (41.9%)
I am not sure/not applicable	3/43 (7.0%)
What kind of interest groups were you involved with as a medical student? (Check all that apply)	
Urology-specific interest group	11/18 (61.1%)
Other surgical specialty-specific interest group (e.g. neurosurgery interest group, cardiac surgery interest group, etc.)	3/18 (16.7%)
Combined surgery interest group (i.e. one group involved in multiple surgical specialties)	10/18 (55.6%)
Women in surgery interest group	4/18 (22.2%)
Other (describe below):	1/18 (5.6%)
On a scale of 1-5, how actively were you involved in interest groups as a medical student?	
1) Not at all involved	3/18 (16.7%)
2) Slightly involved	7/18 (38.9%)
3) Moderately involved	4/18 (22.2%)
4) Very involved	3/18 (16.7%)
5) Extremely involved	0/18 (0.0%)
I am not sure/not applicable	1/18 (5.6%)
Mean $\pm$ SD	2.41 $\pm$ 1.00 (n=17)
On a scale of 1-5, how much did your involvement in interest groups as a medical student influence your decision to pursue urology?	
1) Not at all influential	4/18 (22.2%)
2) Slightly influential	3/18 (16.7%)
3) Moderately influential	6/18 (33.3%)
4) Very influential	1/18 (5.6%)
5) Extremely influential	1/18 (5.6%)
I am not sure/not applicable	3/18 (16.7%)
Mean $\pm$ SD	2.47 $\pm$ 1.19 (n=15)