

Abstract:

Assessing the Prevalence of Gender Microaggressions in Family Medicine

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Purpose/Background:

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the prevalence of gender microaggressions within the field of family medicine. There have been other studies that explore the prevalence of gender microaggressions in medical training (e.g., Anderson, et al., 2021; Goulart, et al., 2021), but none of these studies have been carried out in the Family Medicine (FM) field. Given that FM has been a predominantly female residency (AMA, 2015), we seek to determine if gender microaggressions are experienced by female FM doctors and if so, how prevalent they are. This will provide evidence for a follow-up study exploring the moderating effect of gender literacy in the field of FM.

Methods:

An anonymous, cross-sectional 32-item survey is being distributed to female family medicine physicians in practice or training. Respondents have been asked a series of questions detailing instances of microaggressions based on four categories: microinsults, micro assaults, microinvalidations, and physical barriers. They also have been asked to detail instances of microaggressions during each professional stage of their medical career.

Results and Conclusions:

This investigation is still ongoing, and we plan to have results by February 2023, with full results to be presented at research day. Our hypothesis is that given the predominance of female physicians in family medicine as compared to other specialties (like orthopedics, or plastic surgery), and given the efforts to increase gender literacy and reduce bias in the field, we expect that gender microaggressions are less prevalent in the field of family medicine than in other specialties. And, as mentioned before, this study will lay the groundwork for a follow-up project that aims to explore the moderating effect of gender literacy in the Family Medicine field.