

Award Recipients



Innovative Practices in Education

Danish Bhatti, MD

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To Dr. Danish Bhatti, teaching has become a life purpose. He is a firm believer that technology can never replace a great teacher, but modern teaching methods utilizing technology offer great promise for transforming medical learning and trainee well-being.

Dr. Bhatti's conscious journey as a teacher took off when he attended the Performance in Teaching Series by UNMC Faculty Development. He brought the skills he learned there into residency training and completely reformatted the curriculum and didactic schedule into subspecialty-based courses and worked with course directors, providing guidelines and structure for the subspecialty lectures and course building.

The training also led him to pilot an innovative blended course for the residents in Canvas, a first for Neurology. This five-week course included theme-based weekly online modules with formative quizzes, reading material, task-based assignments, podcasts, a curated discussion forum, and a Twitter feed.

Alongside face-to-face weekly didactics, each resident received a weekly assessment and performance evaluation. A blinded assessment done before and after the course showed improvement in every resident with an overall average of 35%.

The biggest strength of such tools is the ability for

long-distance learning internationally. Dr. Bhatti currently runs an innovative Movement Disorders Mini-Fellowship in collaboration with the Pakistan Society of Neurology for neurology faculty across Pakistan. This 24-week program includes 12 modules using similar assignments and recorded lectures. The program features an interactive discussion group with case-based discussion of participant-submitted cases from their clinics.

Assessments are provided every other week, and the course culminates with a two-day training camp with hands-on skill learning on live patients. This course has attracted participants from Afghanistan, UAE, and Saudi Arabia and collaboration with the John Hopkins International Neurology Program.

Dr. Bhatti's utilization of social media has increased his ability to provide large-scale distance learning. His YouTube channel gained more than 1,000 followers in six months, with the five-minute Neuro Exam video having over 700,000 views. Additionally, Dr. Bhatti uses an iTunes podcast channel for blended learning for residents.



Innovation allows me to reach out long distances without being limited by physical classrooms. It also lets you assess and monitor learners' progress and engagement.