

Objective

To nurture the growing sense of interns developing a professional identity as physician.

Background

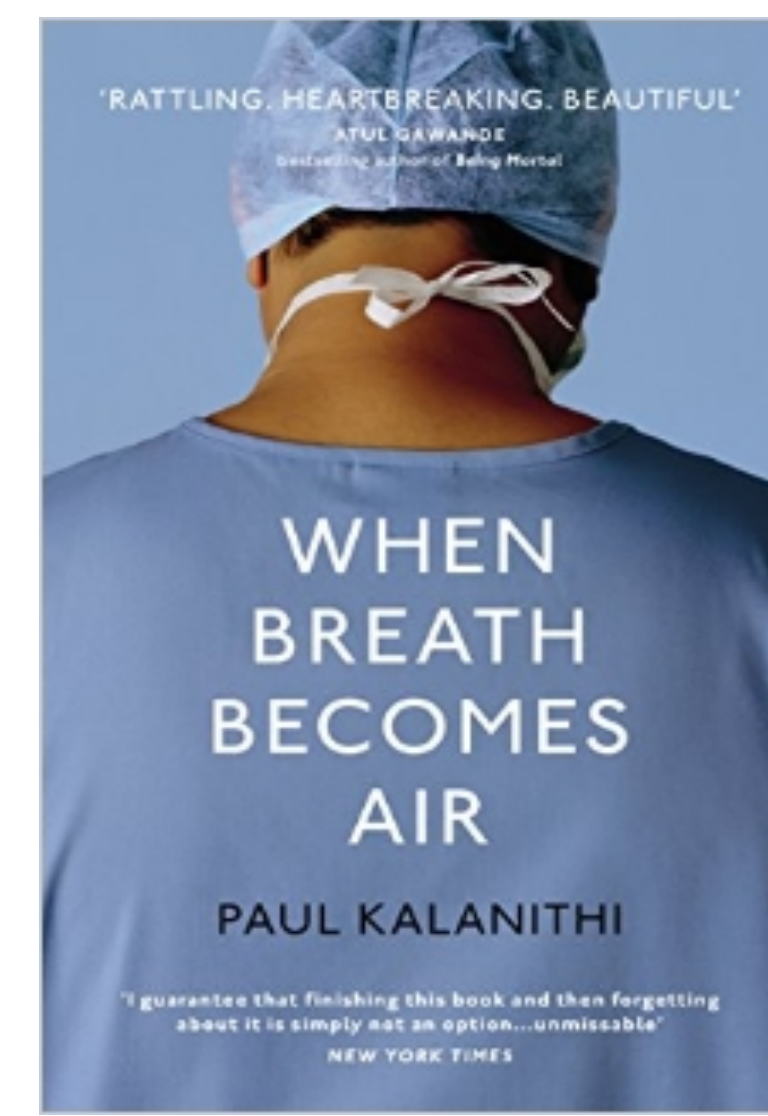
Orientation is a whirlwind of regulations, reminders, rules and usually some social outlets. Very little of it helps new interns foster and celebrate their blossoming professional identity. The book club combats the hidden curriculum emphasizing regulations and policies by nurturing the growing sense of whom they are as physicians, actively placing value on the idea that they are developing a professional identity.

Programmatic Innovation

Thomas Jefferson University Internal Medicine Program intern orientation has an annual book club. Books discussed have included *Checklist Manifesto* by Atul Gawande, MD and most recently *When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi, MD. The goal of the book club is to start an open dialogue about the resident role in the profession of medicine.

The discussion of *Checklist Manifesto* included education on the intern role in understanding the systems in which we deliver care, combatting the hidden curriculum, reassuring them that errors are not personal, and empowering a desire to improve the culture of safety.

When Breath Becomes Air was chosen with the goal of reflection on humanism in medicine, anticipating struggles in residency including professional identity and work life integration.

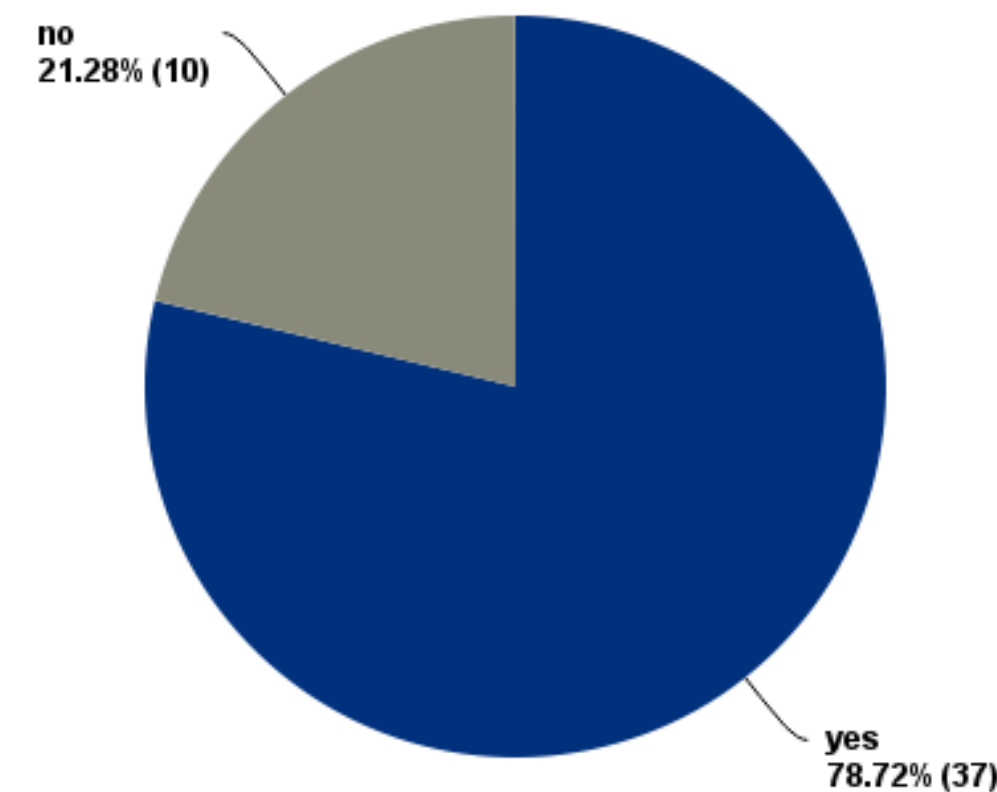


Results to Date

Survey administered to participants 6 months after reading *When Breath Becomes Air* and 18-30 months after reading *Checklist Manifesto* achieved a 44% response rate

Q5 Was the book relevant to your practice of medicine?

Answered: 47 Skipped: 9

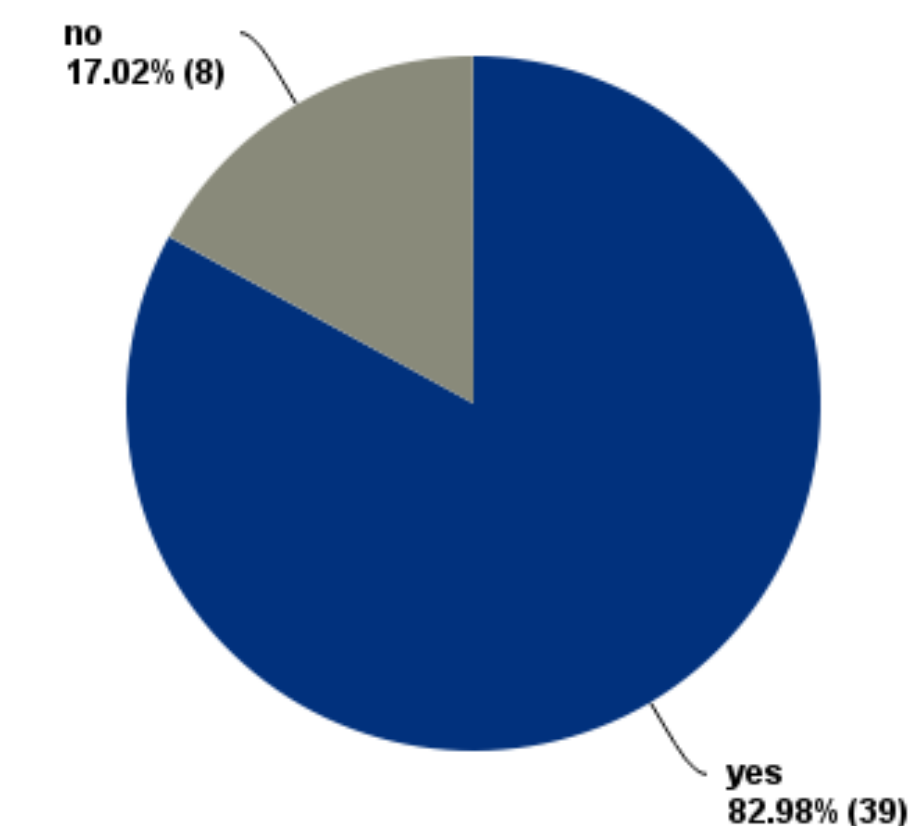


Q4: What do you remember from your discussions of the book?



Q6 Would you recommend continuing "intern book club" as part of orientation for next year?

Answered: 47 Skipped: 9



Significance

Professional identity formation evolves during residency and intern orientation often emphasizes that interns follow rules, algorithms and lack autonomy. A book club format allows interns to openly discuss their concerns and fears related to the start of a career as a physician, combatting the hidden curriculum and guiding their professional identity development.