

Librarian Support for Graduate Medical Education: 5-Year Check-In

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Background

The SKMC Office of the Dean through its Graduate Medical Education (GME) Section identified a need for more comprehensive support for GME research efforts. This was intensified as the residency program requirements began to formalize the expectations and quantification of scholarly output for both trainees and core GME faculty.¹ In consultation with the Director of the Academic Commons, this GME-focused position was conceptualized to better meet the needs of our residents and faculty, and thus enhance the scholarly projects of our GME constituency. This would build on existing scholarly support² including professional writing services.³ As part of the Information Services department in Scott Memorial Library, the librarian would provide research consultation and education to over 1000 residents and fellows in more than 100 programs. Initial program objectives were: expanding outreach to more programs, increasing dedicated education sessions and improving program scholarship outcomes. A GME Librarian was hired in July of 2019.

Outreach

Initial outreach was enhanced by a presentation given during a Program Directors Retreat, which was an all-day event that occurred 3 months after the new GME librarian started. To facilitate introductions and collaboration with faculty, the librarian developed two one-page handouts geared toward program directors. This included 1) a one-page summary of available library services, and 2) a menu of example seminar topics that program directors can either select from or adapt to their needs. At that time, a flyer highlighting library resources commonly used by residents was also developed. These handouts are updated regularly and shared with new program directors.



Education/Seminars

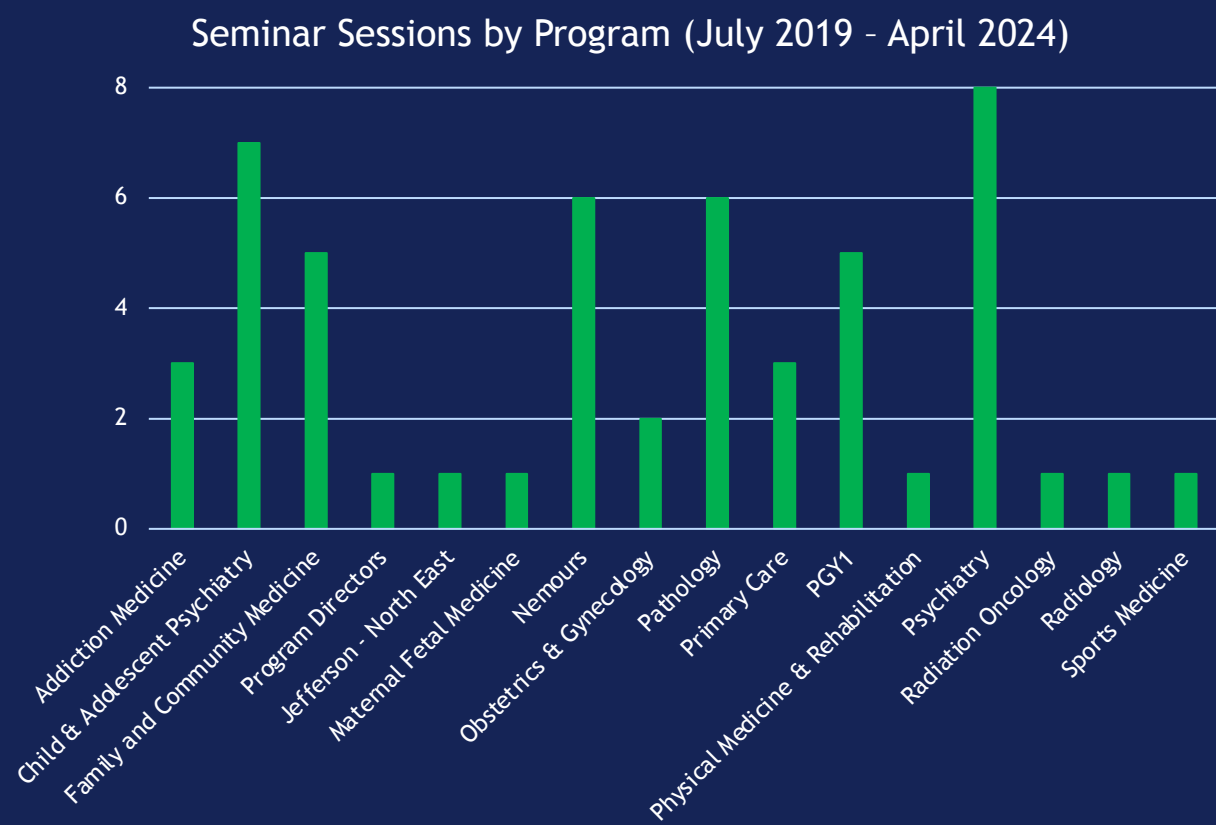
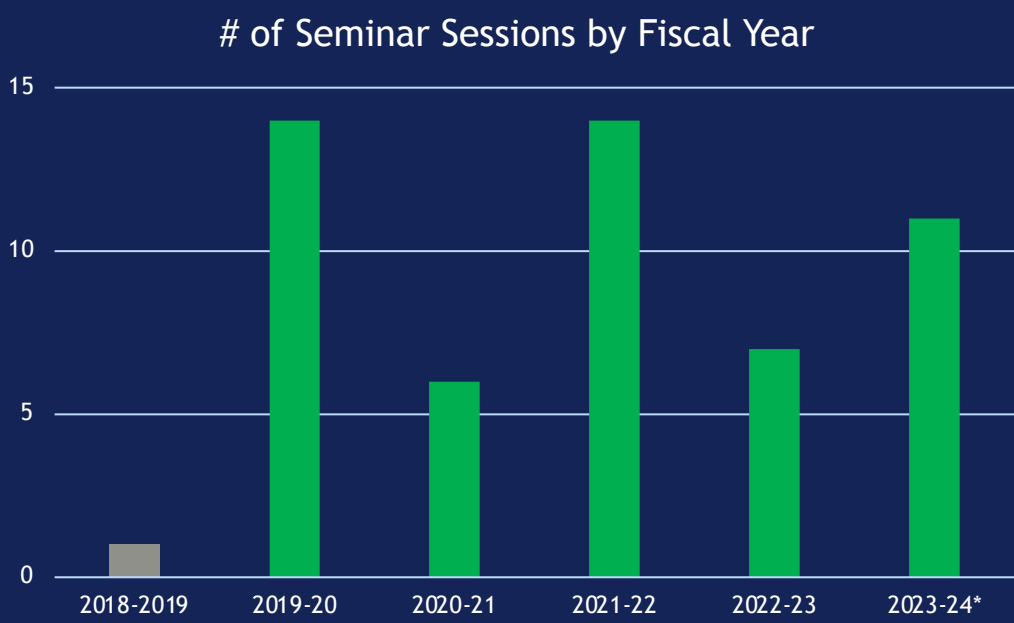
Before hiring the GME librarian in 2019, the library had an ongoing seminar series with one fellowship program. Since 2019, we have presented 48 synchronous seminar sessions, both in-person and over Zoom, for 14 programs. Course topics include: general library orientation, library tools for evidence-based medicine, advanced literature searching skills, and citation management.

Some seminars are specifically embedded into scholarly research aspects of the program. One fellowship program has a journal club which the GME librarian supports by meeting with fellows to assist them in selecting articles and sharing resources for critical appraisal. In another program, residents participate in a research rotation where they must write a draft IRB proposal. The librarian presents on literature search skills and citation management to support these projects. In the initial iteration, the librarian had 20 minutes with the residents. By the third year, the librarian met with those residents for 3 50-minute seminars.

“The feedback from last year’s group was very favorable for your presentation---In fact, last year’s residents expressed that they would have benefited from more time with you, particularly concerning more in-depth instruction regarding strategies for searching the literature to find answers to clinical questions.”

- Faculty member from the program with the research rotation

To reach more residents, 4 asynchronous online modules were created on topics regularly covered during seminars. In 2020, there was a need to move GME orientation sessions online, which increased use of the orientation module. Despite a strong interest in online, asynchronous content, the other three modules have not seen as much use as predicted. In-person seminars are still the preferred format.

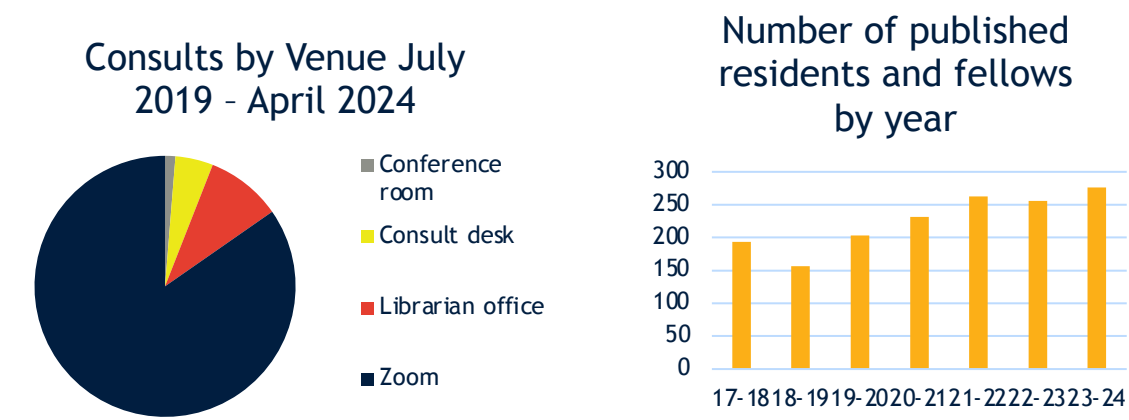
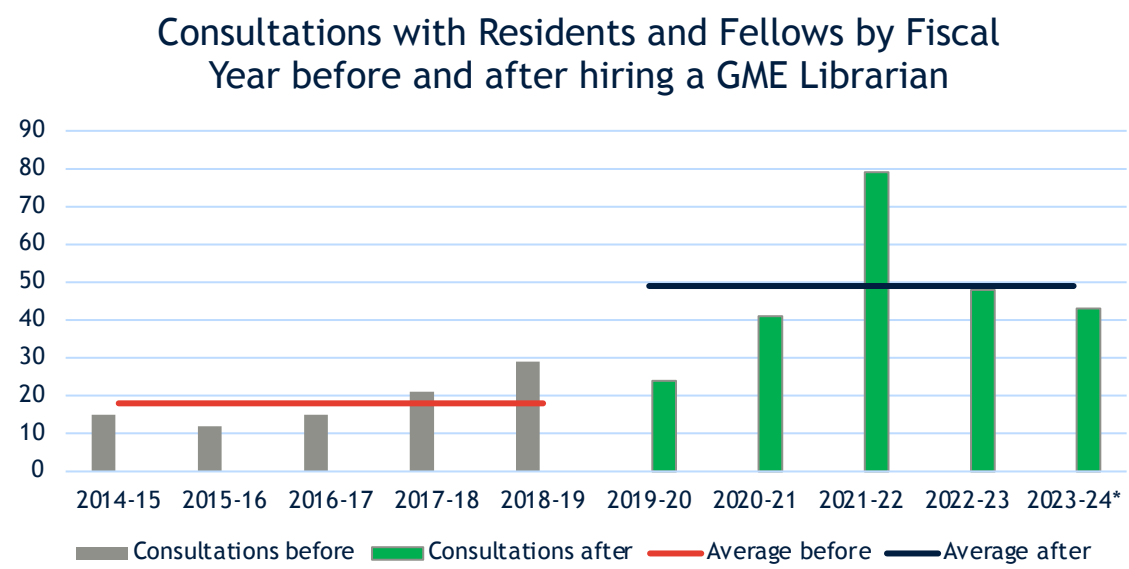


Pilot Survey

During year 3 we began developing a pilot survey to discover gaps in our outreach and education efforts. An initial survey was distributed in April 2023 with limited response. This data was used to determine which programs may need more attention and support. The survey data is not reported here due to lack of IRB approval.

Supporting Scholarship

In the 5 years before hiring a GME librarian, the library had an average of 18 resident consultations per year. Since the GME librarian started, the library has averaged 49 consultations per year. Consultation topics can range from brief sessions on setting up a citation manager, to 1-hour sessions to assist with searching for background information for a research project, to multiple sessions related to a scoping review or systematic review project.



Future Goals

Goals for the future of this position include: (1) repeating the survey with IRB approval, (2) targeted outreach to those programs identified in the initial survey as having gaps in support and less knowledge of the library, (3) exploration of new topic areas such as scholarly communications, data management and artificial intelligence tools, and (4) aligning services across the health system and with undergraduate and pre-medical curricula.

Notes & References

* 2024 data is current through the end of April

- ACGME Common Program Requirements. (n.d.) Retrieved May 7, 2024 from <https://www.acgme.org/programs-and-institutions/programs/common-program-requirements/>
- Scholarly Support at Thomas Jefferson University. (2022). Electronic Handouts. Paper 98. <https://jdc.jefferson.edu/help/98>
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