

Medical Schools with Home Programs in Urology are linked to increased #MedTwitter use in Matched Urology Residents

Introduction: Twitter can be a useful way for medical students to build their network in their chosen field and disseminate research. Within #MedTwitter, there is a robust urology social media (UroSoMe) community of healthcare providers but it is unclear what factors influence medical students to join the community. We investigated factors related to using Twitter as a medical student prior to matching into Urology including medical school type, having a home urology program, and faculty h-index, which is a measure of scholarly activity.

Methods: Matched applicants and Urology programs were identified using Doximity and institutional websites. Matched applicants without information on their medical school were excluded. Applicant Twitter accounts were identified through manual search for matching name and/or photo or through residency program mentions. The h-index is a measure of research productivity based on number of published manuscripts and citations. H-indexes were identified via SCOPUS, an online abstract and citation database, and values were collected for two clinical faculty at each medical school. Association between Twitter presence and institutional factors was analyzed by linear regression using SPSSv28.0.

Results: The 353 matched 2020-2021 applicants came from 141 different medical schools including 20 applicants (5.7%) from an osteopathic (DO) or international medical program. 304 (86.1%) of matched applicants had a home Urology program. 248 (70.3%) had a Twitter account and 144 (58%) created the account during the match cycle. Having a home program was significantly associated ($p=.017$) with having a Twitter account by linear regression; faculty h-index, medical school type, and having a home program were not significantly related.

Conclusions: Medical students with home programs may have a greater ability to make connections and develop mentoring relationships with the clinical faculty and this may influence use of #MedTwitter.