



Ongoing discussions on supporting medical students during a crisis

Discussions en cours sur le soutien des étudiants en médecine en période de crise

Sallie Han et Joyce Nyhof-Young

Volume 15, numéro 4, 2024

URI : <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/1113611ar>

DOI : <https://doi.org/10.36834/cmej.79569>

[Aller au sommaire du numéro](#)

Éditeur(s)

Canadian Medical Education Journal

ISSN

1923-1202 (numérique)

[Découvrir la revue](#)

Citer ce document

Han, S. & Nyhof-Young, J. (2024). Ongoing discussions on supporting medical students during a crisis. *Canadian Medical Education Journal / Revue canadienne de l'éducation médicale*, 15(4), 143–143.
<https://doi.org/10.36834/cmej.79569>

© Sallie Han et Joyce Nyhof-Young, 2024



Ce document est protégé par la loi sur le droit d'auteur. L'utilisation des services d'Érudit (y compris la reproduction) est assujettie à sa politique d'utilisation que vous pouvez consulter en ligne.

<https://apropos.erudit.org/fr/usagers/politique-dutilisation/>

érudit

Cet article est diffusé et préservé par Érudit.

Érudit est un consortium interuniversitaire sans but lucratif composé de l'Université de Montréal, l'Université Laval et l'Université du Québec à Montréal. Il a pour mission la promotion et la valorisation de la recherche.

<https://www.erudit.org/fr/>

Ongoing discussions on supporting medical students during a crisis

Discussions en cours sur le soutien des étudiants en médecine en période de crise

Sallie Han,¹ Joyce Nyhof-Young^{2,3,4}

¹Temerty Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada; ²Academics Program, Women's College Hospital, Ontario, Canada;

³Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada ⁴The Wilson Centre, Temerty Faculty of Medicine and University Health Network, Ontario, Canada

Correspondence to: Sallie Han; email: sallie.han@mail.utoronto.ca

Published ahead of issue: Aug 15, 2024; published: Aug 30, 2024. CMEJ 2024 Available at <https://doi.org/10.36834/cmej.79569>

© 2024 Han, Nyhof-Young; licensee Synergies Partners. This is an Open Journal Systems article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License. (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0>) which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is cited.

Dear Editor,

We are writing in response to the ideas shared in the letter by Wiwanitkit et al.¹ regarding our medical student-led paper, "Investigating the experiences of medical students quarantined due to COVID-19 exposure."²

The authors suggested that a larger sample size could have improved response rates and a longer study could have provided a more comprehensive understanding of student experiences. We agree and had considered these limitations. However, given the context of a rapidly evolving global pandemic, limitations around sample size were inevitable and prolonging the study would have delayed our ability to promptly share key insights with the MD Program. Medical students were facing enormous stressors during the COVID-19 pandemic, and our priority was to provide urgent improvements in student support for their safety and well-being.

Factors such as uncertainty, isolation, stigma, and a challenging political climate² likely contributed to reduced study participation. Our aim was to inform immediate central programmatic responses without causing further harm to participants navigating illness and turmoil. The literature supports our emphasis on the importance of study timing and the need for effective communication to reduce negative reaction and avoid stakeholder harm

during times of crisis.³ We reasoned that even a small number of interviews and surveys could provide valuable lessons and insights. Broad generalizability and long-term study were not our goals; rather, we aimed to develop targeted, student-centred recommendations to drive program improvement and prioritize student wellbeing during an intense time of crisis management.

We thank the respondents for their thoughtful letter.

Acknowledgements: The authors would like to acknowledge David Rojas and Iris Kim for their contribution to this article.

Edited by: Marcel D'Eon (editor-in-chief)

References

1. Wiwanitkit S, Wiwanitkit V. Re: "Investigating the experiences of medical students quarantined due to COVID-19 exposure." *Can Med Educ J*. 2024 Apr 15;15(2):110. <https://doi.org/10.36834/cmej.78857>
2. Han S, Kim I, Rojas D, Nyhof-Young J. Investigating the experiences of medical students quarantined due to COVID-19 exposure. *Can Med Educ J*. 2023 Dec 30;14(6):92-101. <https://doi.org/10.36834/cmej.75571>
3. Bundy J, Pfarrer MD, Short CE, Coombs WT. Crises and crisis management: integration, interpretation, and research development. *J Manag*. 2017 Jul 1;43(6):1661-92. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0149206316680030>