

Media Training Exercise for Future Public Health Physicians and Journalists: Community Medicine Residency Program at University of Toronto and Journalism Program at Ryerson University



RYERSON UNIVERSITY

Hong Ge^{1,2}, Suanne Kelman³

¹Durham Region Health Department; ²University of Toronto, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, Community Medicine Residency Program (Current Name: Public Health and Preventive Medicine Residency Program),
³School of Journalism, Ryerson University

BACKGROUND

The media training exercise is a collaboration between the Community Medicine Residency Program at the University Toronto (U of T) and the School of Journalism at Ryerson University (Ryerson).

OBJECTIVES

To enhance the media interview skills of future public health physicians, and raise public health knowledge for the journalism students.

METHODS

Each media training session includes three steps: planning, exercise and review.

PLANNING

- One month before the exercise, the coordinator at U of T collected the resident physicians' areas of interest.
- The professor at Ryerson let the journalism student choose the resident physicians they would like to interview according to the residents' expertise.
- The matched resident and journalism student list was e-mailed to both groups.
- One week before the exercise, the residents and journalist students conducted a telephone pre-interview.

EXERCISE

- On the day of the exercise, residents and journalism students conducted the interview in the professional studio at Ryerson, and then the journalism students edited the clips on site.
- It usually took one hour to complete 10 interviews.

REVIEW

- The group review session was conducted immediately after the exercise, with residents, journalism students, the journalism professor and residency program faculty members.
- The clips were played and evaluated, in a discussion led by the faculty members.

RESULTS

- The media training session has been conducted annually since 2002. There has been eight radio interviews and three TV exercises.
- The evaluation of the training sessions was very useful for both the resident physicians from U of T and the journalist students from Ryerson.

DISCUSSIONS

- The media training exercises provides media practice for the future public health physicians.
- The training session gives journalist students an opportunity to become familiar with public health issues, and practise interview skills with physicians.
- The media training session will be continued as a regular curriculum feature of the two universities.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Suane Kelman, Interim Chair,
School of Journalism, Ryerson University,
350 Victoria Street, Toronto, ON M5B 2K3, Canada
Email: skelman@fcad.ryerson.ca

Dr. Fran Scott, Program Director
Public Health and Preventive Medicine Residency Program, University
of Toronto
155 College Street, 6th Floor, Toronto, ON, M5T 3M7, Canada
Email: fran.scott@utoronto.ca