

Healthcare Advocacy Education and Health Profession Student Attitudes

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BACKGROUND

Advocacy training for healthcare professional students is essential to equip them with the skills needed to effectively champion patient rights, influence health policy, and address systemic inequities.

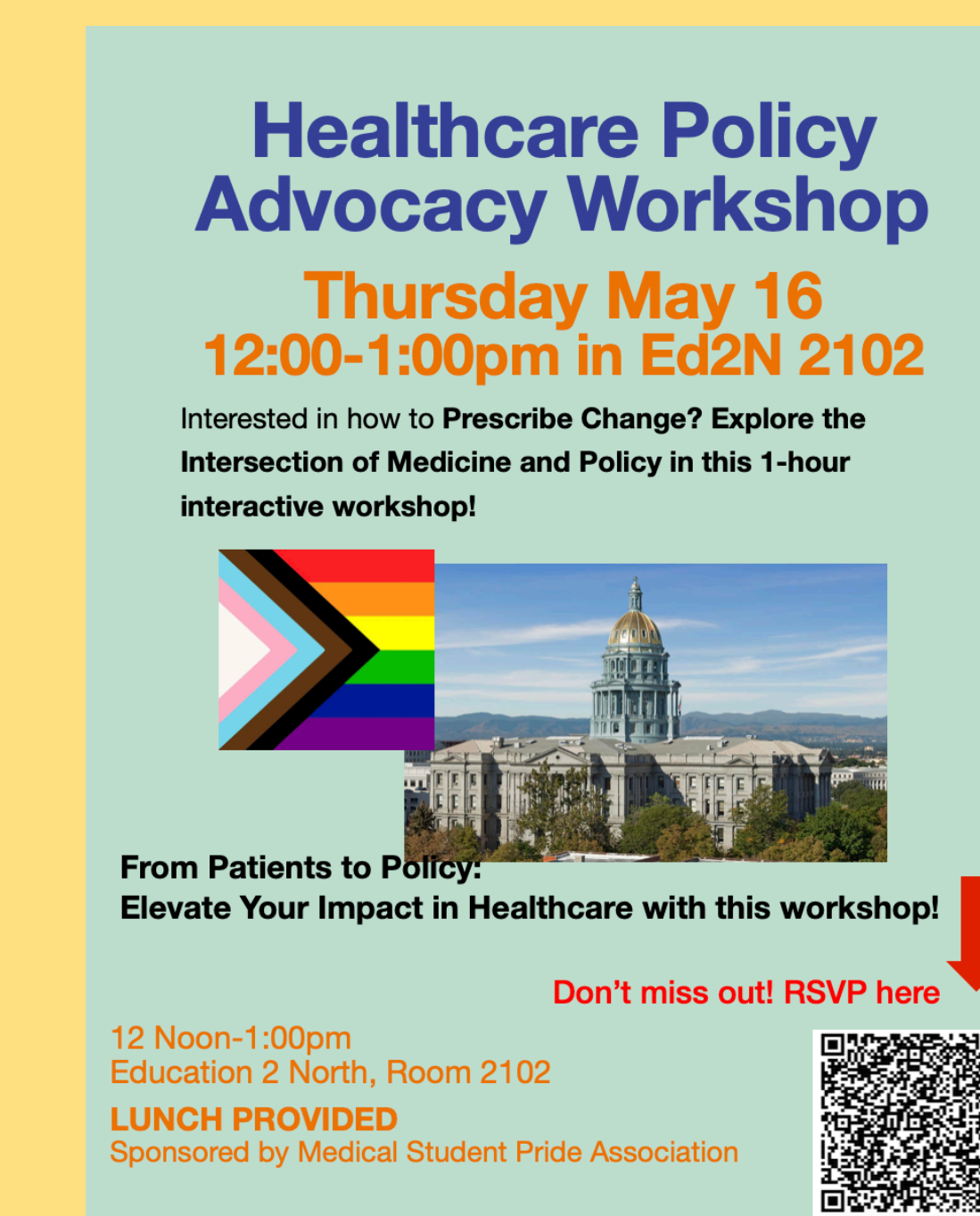
As future leaders in healthcare, students must be prepared to navigate complex social and political landscapes to ensure equitable access to quality care for all future patients.

APPROACH

Education on healthcare advocacy and policy is lacking in traditional medical school curriculums (1). However, there is increasing demand for healthcare professionals to be advocates for science and medicine. To fill the gap, we developed an advocacy education module for health profession students and trainees across the campus. The plan is for this to include PA students, dental students, nursing students, and medical students.

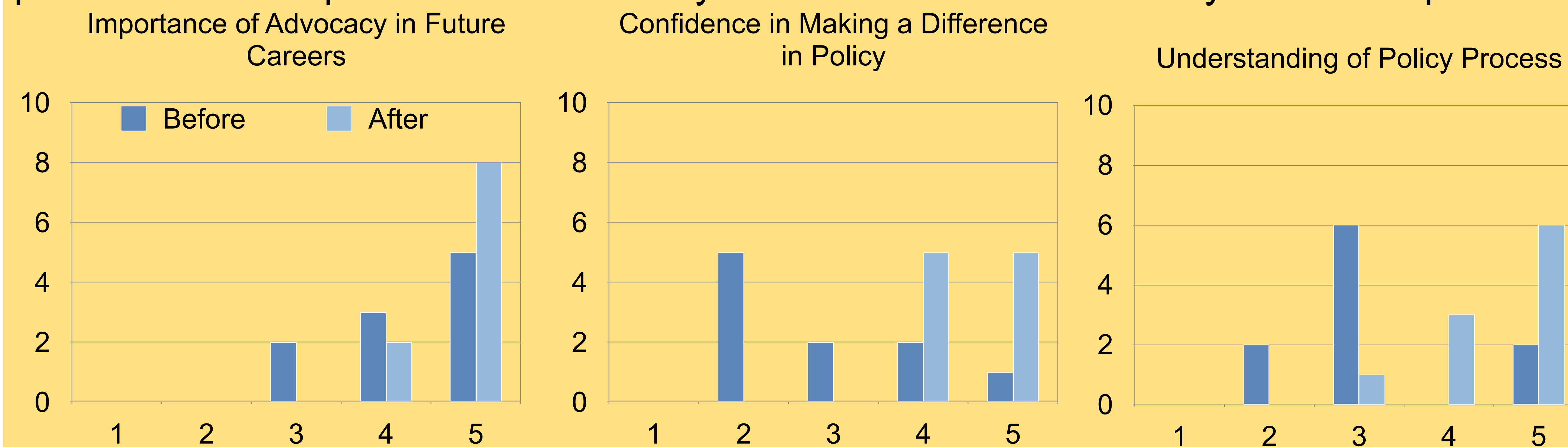
METHODS

- Develop a 1-hour advocacy workshop for healthcare professional students at the CU Anschutz medical campus, delivered as a “Lunch and Learn”
- Offer a pilot “Lunch & Learn” peer-led advocacy interactive workshop for ten first-year medical students in partnership with CU Medical Student Pride Alliance
- Workshop consisted of activities related to promoting access to care for future patients, navigating the healthcare system and policy process, mobilizing resources, addressing health inequities, influencing health policy, and creating system change
- Administer and analyze an anonymous participant survey (pilot n=10)



RESULTS

Survey results revealed increased confidence in knowledge and understanding of the policy process, perceived role of providers in advocacy and confidence in the ability to make a positive difference



NEXT STEPS

- Offer additional ‘Lunch & Learn’ sessions and add students from other health professional schools and program
- Form campus-wide healthcare advocacy student organization
- Advocate for incorporation of this advocacy training session into the medical school (and beyond) curriculum

Resources and References:

