#RheumJC: Impact of Invited Authors on a Twitter Based Rheumatology Journal Club

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Background/Purpose: Twitter is an increasingly popular platform for discussion and engagement among healthcare professionals. #RheumJC is a Twitter-based international rheumatology journal club which occurs approximately once a month. One novel aspect of #RheumJC has been to include principal authors of the discussed manuscripts, whenever possible. Here we describe participant demographics and survey results from the past 18 months of this initiative with a focus on how the presence of authors has impacted the journal club and participants.

Methods: A #RheumJC development team was created to help define the structure and moderate the online discussions. Prior to each journal club, principal authors of the selected manuscripts were invited to participate. A total of 37 different online journal clubs were conducted between January 2015 and June 2016, each consisting of two “live” one hour chats, as well as a full 24 hrs to allow for asynchronous participation. In 4 of the 10 journal clubs, principal authors of the chosen manuscripts participated in the online discussion. An analysis of all the sessions was performed to assess participant demographics and participation rates. A follow up survey was conducted after the 10th journal club to both #RheumJC participants as well as the invited authors to assess metrics of satisfaction and identify additional strengths or barriers.

Results: 413 individuals from 16 different countries participated in at least one #RheumJC session, for a total of 5 journal clubs during which principal authors were present. In sessions without an author present, there were a significantly greater number of participants (46.4 ± 11.5 vs 26.3 ± 11.6 respectively, p=0.008) and tweets (6.06 ± 9.03 vs 13.11 ± 9.91, p=0.017) suggesting the presence of principal author was a popular feature. 35 individuals from 11 different countries responded to a survey indicated they had participated or followed along in at least one journal club. The majority (84%) indicated they were either satisfied or highly satisfied with the journal club and they would be highly likely to participate again. Participants indicated a desire to receive follow-up updates on the topic, and a desire to have the opportunity to learn from the experts in the field.

Conclusion: #RheumJC is a novel and popular approach to the traditional medical journal club. The involvement of manuscript authors has proven to be a particularly well received aspect of this initiative. The inclusion of authors in the discussion increases user engagement and provides an opportunity to impart new information to the audience.

References:


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