Episode 12: Integrating Telemedicine Into Medical Education

Guest: Amit Pahwa, MD, Director, Internal Medicine Sub-Internship, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Associate Professor of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University, Editor-in-Chief, Aquifer Foundations of Telemedicine

Host: Lynne Robins, PhD, Professor Emerita, Department of Biomedical Informatics and Medical Education, University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, WA.

Description: In this episode, Dr. Amit Pahwa discusses the development of Aquifer’s new Foundations of Telemedicine course, which is freely available to all teachers and students. Dr. Pahwa talks about the genesis of the courses, how to integrate the courses into your curriculum, how the cases fit different needs of students, and how faculty members can use the cases in their instruction. Due to the rise in the use of telemedicine across all disciplines, these courses are of great importance to all medical professions students. The cases align with the AAMC’s Competencies for Telemedicine.

Amit’s Key Takeaways:
1. Learning the basics of telemedicine helps students how to make more cost-effective decisions for patients, and how to escalate care and determine when to bring patients into clinic.
2. Cases should be assigned before clinical rotations to help prepare students. Cases also act as a just-in-time resource to go back and reference when they need a refresher.
3. Students traditionally have struggled with the physical exam portion of telehealth visits, so the cases include videos that model ways to manage the physical exam in this setting.
4. Cases address the need for increasing education in telehealth to keep up with current trends, providing a way to give students foundational knowledge without taking up faculty time.

Additional Resources:
- Aquifer Foundations of Telemedicine Course Page
- Publication - Improving Medical Students’ OSCE Performance in Telehealth: The Effects of a Telephone Medicine Curriculum

Theme Music: “Little Idea” by scottholmesmusic.com