



GLOBAL SKIN HEALTH

THE IMPACT OF WIKIPEDIA EDITING IN DERMATOLOGY

M.o. Hutton⁽¹⁾ - J.e. Dawson⁽²⁾ - K.c. Lee⁽³⁾ - L. Doney⁽⁴⁾ - V. Goh⁽⁵⁾ - M. Kenney⁽⁶⁾ - B. Mills⁽⁷⁾ - A. Robbins⁽⁶⁾ - R.p. Dellavalle⁽¹⁾

University Of Colorado School Of Medicine, Dermatology, Aurora, Co, United States⁽¹⁾ - Ottawa Hospital, Research Institute, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada⁽²⁾ - Brown University, Dermatology, Providence, Ri, United States⁽³⁾ - Cochrane Skin Group, Centre For Evidence Based Dermatology, Nottingham, United Kingdom⁽⁴⁾ - University Of Illinois Chicago College Of Medicine, Dermatology, Chicago, Il, United States⁽⁵⁾ - University Of Vermont School Of Medicine, Dermatology, Burlington, Vt, United States⁽⁶⁾ - Texas Tech Health Sciences Center School Of Medicine, Dermatology, Lubbock, Tx, United States⁽⁷⁾

Background: Wikipedia is one of the most popular sources of health information for the public and appears among the top search engine results for dermatologic diseases. The goal of the Cochrane-Wikipedia Partnership is to ensure evidence-based health-related content is shared on Wikipedia. Cochrane Review Groups, Centers, and Fields are engaging with Wikipedia to develop more editors and share high-quality Cochrane Review evidence in Wikipedia articles.

Objective: This project seeks to evaluate the impact of editing dermatologic Wikipedia articles to include evidence-based information from Cochrane reviews.

Materials and Methods: From May to August 2018, 5 medical students from U.S. medical schools were recruited to become Wikipedia editors. They were trained in editing technique and studied 85 dermatology-related Cochrane reviews currently available. The students incorporated Cochrane-level evidence into 40 corresponding Wikipedia articles. The edited topics ranged from common skin diseases such as psoriasis and acne to rare diseases and alternative medicine.

Results: The dermatology-related Wikipedia articles that were edited by the medical student team amassed 3.91 million new views by September 2018. The top 5 viewed articles were on the topics of psoriasis, cellulitis, melanoma, leprosy, and molluscum contagiosum. These five articles accounted for 40% of the total view count.

Conclusions: The Cochrane Skin Wikipedia initiative aims to incorporate evidence-based information into Wikipedia health articles. Wikipedia's vast influence and accessibility makes it an effective dermatology education tool. The results of this project show that a





short period of Wikipedia editing can have a large impact on the quality and accessibility of dermatologic information for the public. Dermatologists, students and other medical professionals should organize and engage in Wikipedia editing to expand the reach of evidence-based dermatology information.

