

# Preparing Medical Students to Care for Patients with Autism Spectrum Disorder



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER

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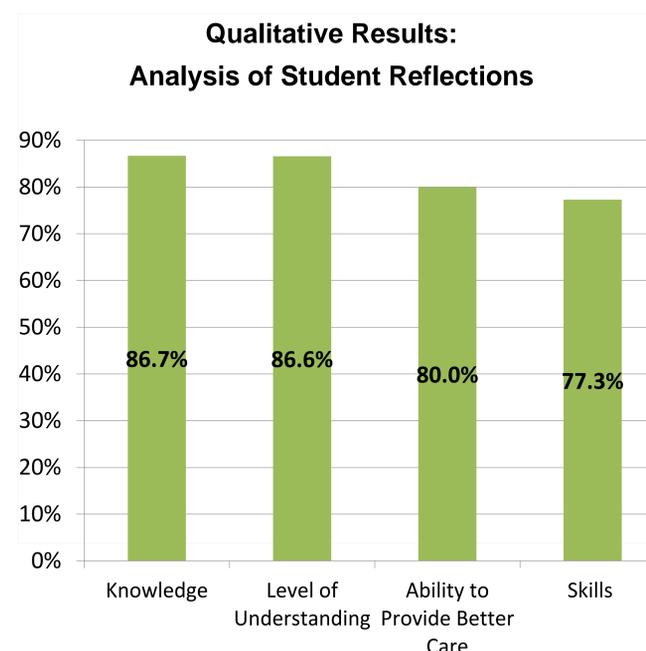
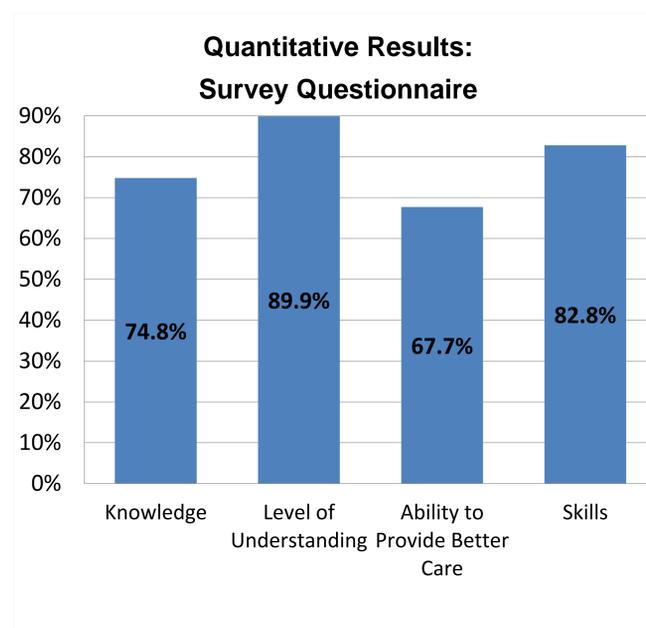
## Background

- Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) experience worse health and increased barriers to routine care compared to people without disabilities.
- Improving access and quality of care is essential to eliminating the health disparities among patients with disabilities.
- Medical education is increasingly expected to address underserved and vulnerable populations and teach future physicians to be culturally competent.
- Training culturally competent physicians is a major goal of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (2007) and is a required component of medical training.
- Disability education addresses LCME goals of cultural competence, diversity, AND meeting the needs of underserved populations
- Disability education can increase in provider knowledge, confidence, and comfort in caring for patients with disabilities

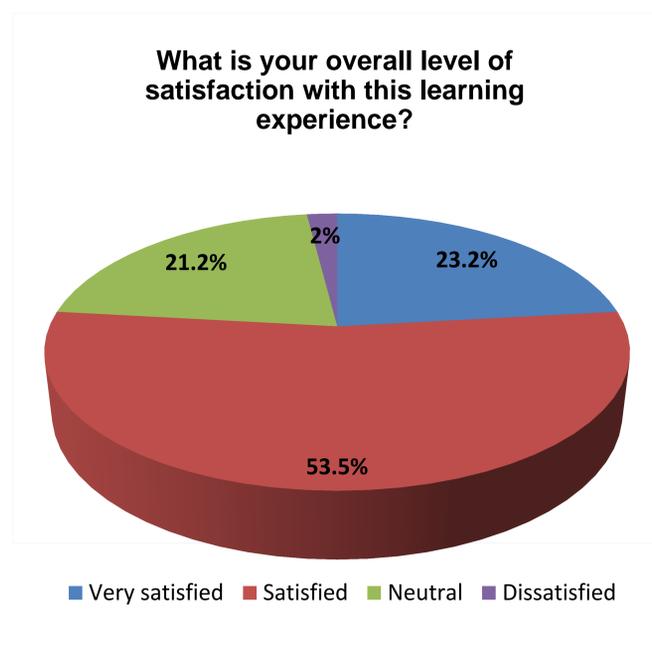
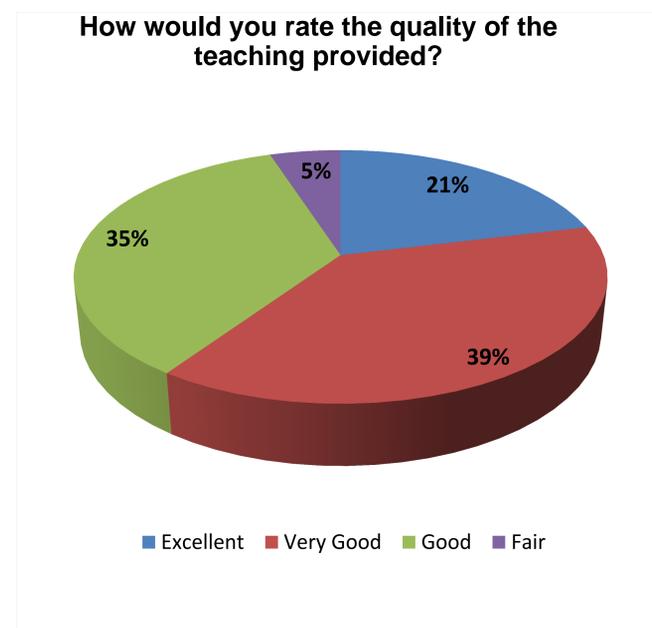
## Methods

- Mandatory ASD encounter for all 3<sup>rd</sup> year medical students at Ohio State University
- Panels consisted of a facilitator (a developmental-behavioral pediatrician) and four to five panel members made up of adults with ASD and parents
- Data were analyzed for panels discussions were conducted from April to September of 2013
- Medical students were asked ten closed-ended questions about the training and asked to write a 100-250 word reflection using SurveyMonkey.
- Quantitative analysis of student feedback (N=99) was carried out using SPSS.
- Students' reflections were analyzed using QSR NVivo software.

## Student Outcomes



## Student Satisfaction



## Student Reflections

"I found the panel to be extremely worthwhile, and loved the fact that people with autism were able to participate and lend their perspective. It is incredibly helpful to hear a first-hand account when trying to understand a developmental disability."

"Seeing the spectrum of abilities and lifestyles on the autism spectrum was also educational as I had no idea of the level of differences among those with this diagnosis."

"This presentation made it clear that it is crucial to form a relationship with the caretakers and family members of the patient as they can be valuable allies in understanding how best to communicate with the patient."

"While I realize that my comfort level will only truly increase as I begin to have these interactions as a physician, this workshop laid a firm groundwork from which I can begin to build my confidence."

## Autism Curriculum Guide

Check out our website for resources:

[Autism-med-ed.osu.edu](http://Autism-med-ed.osu.edu)

