Underrepresented Minorities in Medical School Admissions

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Purpose
This research followed a grounded theory approach to explore the medical school admission experiences of a sample of minority medical students.

Research Question
How do individuals from racial/ethnic minority groups navigate through the medical school admissions process?

Methodology
- Phase 1 - Interviews
- Phase 2 - feedback sessions

Sample
- Medical student members of the Northeast and National Latino Medical Student Association and Student National Medical Association
- Participants represented 25 allopathic medical schools.
- 23 self-identified Black/African-Americans and 10 Hispanics/Latinos; 21 women and 12 men

Conceptual Model/Emergent Themes

(Predisposition) (Search/Application) (Choice)

Reasons for Applying
- Perceived fit; prior experience or knowledge; encouragement and role models; desire to help others; perceived benefits; interest in science

Decision To (Re) Apply

Facilitators/Barriers
- Information, guidance and support; finances; preparation; extra programs; extracurricular activities; attitude

Potential Directions: Research and Practice
- Advising and mentoring
- Changing admissions practice
- Outreach and recruitment
- Extra programs
- Information
- Data collection

Acceptance
Rejection
Feedback

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