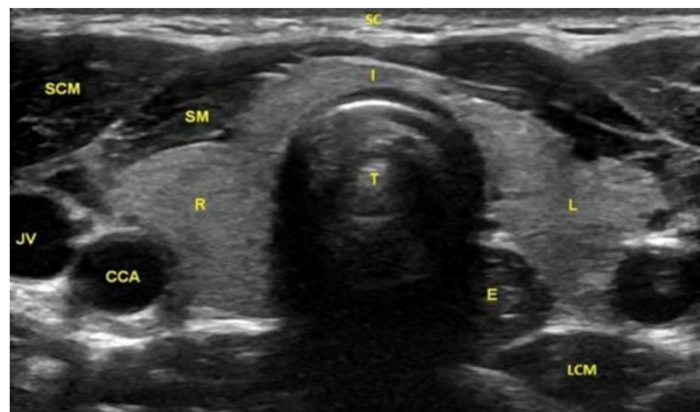


# Perceptions of Point-of-Care Ultrasound in Physician Assistant Anatomy Education

## Introduction/Background

Point of care ultrasound (POCUS) in medical education has become an increasingly valuable tool for teaching anatomy and clinical skills but its integration into PA education is limited. As of 2019, 23% of PA programs incorporated POCUS training into their curriculum (Smalley, 2021). Integrating ultrasound into medical curricula aims to enhance students' comprehension of living anatomy and improve their diagnostic capabilities.

**Image 1**  
Normal appearance of the thyroid gland with an ultrasound.



## Methods

### Survey Design

- POCUS: thorax and HENT anatomy.
- Session evaluation
- 4 questions where 1 is strongly disagree and 5 is strongly agree.

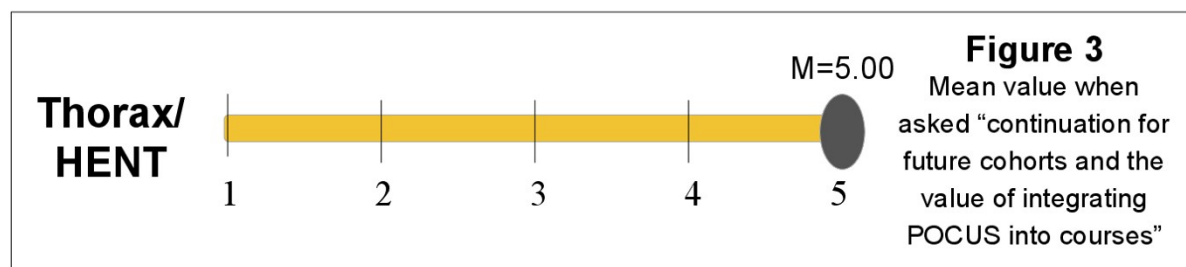
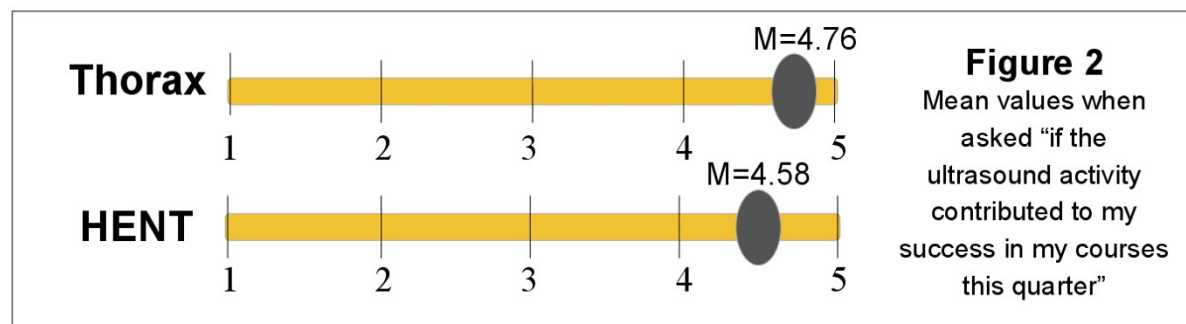
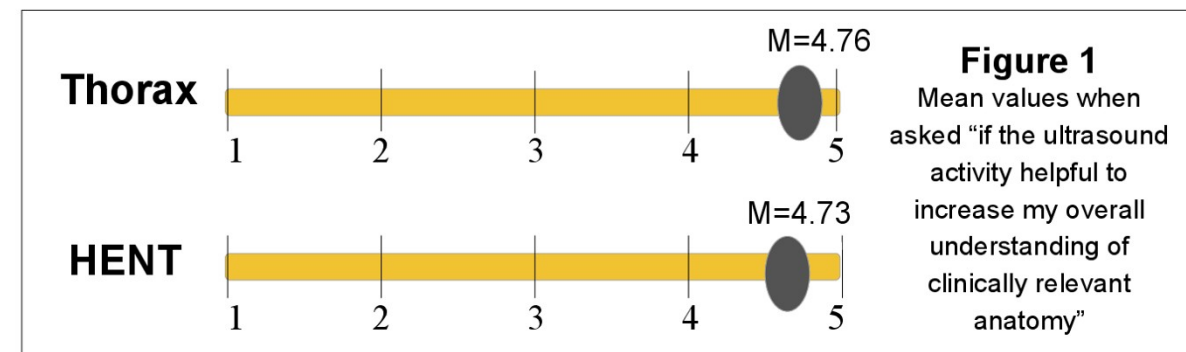
### Data Collection

- 65 first year PA students received a voluntary, anonymous survey following the session through Qualtrics.
- 51% response rate, n=32.

### Data Analysis

- XLMiner (Excel)
- Descriptive statistics.

## Results



## POCUS Curriculum

- 65 1st year PA students in advanced clinical skills course.
- Active learning sessions in the classroom incorporated written ultrasound case studies and hands on ultrasound station practice of thorax and HENT.
- Sessions were guided by trained clinical professor and students were given detailed descriptions and images at each station.

## Discussion

- The data emphasizes the value of interactive POCUS sessions to enhance students knowledge of clinically relevant anatomy and contribute to academic and professional growth of students in the program.



**Image 2**  
Clinical professor guiding students through ultrasound examination of the thyroid gland.

## Conclusions

- Despite these overwhelmingly positive results, implementing such curricula, specifically in PA education, is very limited due to time constraints, lack of faculty training in POCUS, and access to ultrasound machines.
- This suggests that it would be worthwhile to prioritize overcoming implementation barriers to meet growing demands and prepare PA students for their future clinical roles.

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