

2017 Annual Scientific Meeting
FIT Open Mic Abstracts

Presenter: Eric Malone, MD

PRESENTATION INFORMATION

Title of Presentation:

FOAM and Medical Toxicology in a post-truth World

Abstract:

The recent American political campaign and its ongoing aftermath have left behind new understandings of what were before seemingly unassailable concepts: truth and fact. News is no longer just “news,” but is now “fake” or “real.” Filtering and preference settings allow for increasingly incommensurable silos of knowledge. A twitter account is now all that is required to deliver one’s thoughts to the world as fact without an associated mandate to provide evidence to support such claims.

In this world, consider the rise of FOAM. In place of peer-reviewed, edited journal and textbooks, we are presented authoritative, evolving, and dynamic content. It is streamlined, digestible, and visually appealing. The easy access and availability of this curated, distilled content is increasingly preferred to traditional sources of evidence.

The potential impact of FOAM on the practice of medical toxicology should not be underestimated. We are vulnerable. Our specialty does not have the benefit of large cohort observations or robust clinical trials. Our knowledge is of case reports and mechanisms. It is specialized, complicated, and essential. And it should be defended.

Objective 1:

Provide background and context for the rise of Free Open Access Medical Education (FOAM).

Objective 2:

Describe the unique threats to medical toxicology practice and education posed by FOAM

Objective 3:

Suggest a course of action and potential responses.