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Specialty Specific Comparisons Regarding Perspectives on Fellowship Training

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abstract



BACKGROUND: As part of a recent effort by the American Board of Pediatrics to examine fellowship training, a task force was established to review the components of training and develop recommendations for any modifications deemed necessary. To inform the task force, several studies were undertaken to gain insights and perspectives from current fellows, those who had completed fellowship training, and program directors regarding their experiences and the perceived value of their training. This article provides the findings for each subspecialty in tables that allow comparison with all other subspecialties for each study population.

METHODS: All data were first analyzed for missing or incomplete response patterns. Frequency distributions of all findings were prepared for each specific subspecialty. Next, χ^2 statistics were used to compare each subspecialty with the others. A *P* value <.05 was considered significant.

RESULTS: Results for each question for each study population are shown in the tables, provided in the online data supplement. Supplemental Tables 1–29 are for program directors, Supplemental Tables 30–48 are for current fellows, Supplemental Tables 49–76 are for recent fellowship graduates, and Supplemental Tables 77–99 are for midcareer subspecialists.

CONCLUSIONS: There are significant differences between the subspecialties in their perceptions of a variety of issues involving fellowship training. *Pediatrics* 2014;133:S76–S77

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KEY WORDS

fellowship, training, subspecialty, education

ABBREVIATION

ABP—American Board of Pediatrics

Dr Freed conceptualized and designed the study and critically reviewed and revised the manuscript; Ms Dunham designed the data collection instrument, coordinated and supervised data collection, and drafted the initial manuscript; Ms Moran conducted data collection and tracking, coded the responses, and reviewed and revised the manuscript; Ms Spera carried out the analyses and reviewed and revised the manuscript; Dr McGuinness reviewed and revised the data collection instrument and critically reviewed the manuscript; Dr Stevenson reviewed and interpreted the data, critically reviewed the manuscript; and all authors approved the final manuscript as submitted.

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There are 14 pediatric subspecialties for which the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) offers certifying examinations. As part of a recent effort by the ABP to examine fellowship training, a task force was established to review the components of training and develop recommendations for any modifications deemed necessary. To inform the task force, several studies were undertaken to gain insights and perspectives from current fellows, those who had completed fellowship training, and program directors regarding their experiences and the perceived value of their training. Articles in this supplement detail the findings for each of those groups but are aggregated across all subspecialties.

Many differences in perspectives are hypothesized to exist across the panoply of pediatric subspecialties. However, few data exist that compare either trainees or practitioners across the subspecialties. This article provides the findings for each subspecialty in tables that allow comparison with all other subspecialties for each study population.

REFERENCES

1. Pediatric fellowship project data – Program director survey, current fellow survey, recent graduate survey, and midcareer survey. 2013; Available at: <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/lookup/suppl/doi:10.1542/peds.2013-3861F/-/DCSupplemental>. Accessed March 21, 2014

METHODS

Methods for data collection have been described elsewhere in the supplement.

All data were first analyzed for missing or incomplete response patterns. Frequency distributions of all findings were prepared for each specific subspecialty. Next, χ^2 statistics were used to compare each subspecialty with the others. A *P* value <.05 was considered significant.

The study was approved by the University of Michigan Medical School Institutional Review Board.

RESULTS

Results for each question for each study population are shown in the tables provided in the online data supplement.¹ Supplemental Tables 1–29 are for program directors, Supplemental Tables 30–48 are for current fellows, Supplemental Tables 49–76 are for recent fellowship graduates, and Supplemental Tables 77–99 are for midcareer subspecialists.

In addition to the results included in the online data supplement, data tables that include more extensive and detailed information on each of the 14 subspecialties in comparison with all other subspecialties combined are available on the ABP web site.²

CONCLUSIONS

There are significant differences between the subspecialties in their perceptions of a variety of issues involving fellowship training. Future efforts at fellowship reform must take into account the range of perspectives among the pediatric subspecialties with regard to training in clinical care, education, and research.

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