Fellowship director

While many current and aspiring neurosurgeons are looking to supplement their clinical practices with leadership positions, there has not been research characterizing current leadership positions such as fellowship directors (FDs) in neurosurgery to provide insight into objective qualities that distinguish these individuals from the rest of the workforce. This study aims to outline the current characterization of spine, endovascular, pediatric, and stereotactic & functional neurosurgery fellowship directors.

A list of accredited neurosurgical fellowship programs located within the US and their respective directors were acquired through the AANS Neurosurgical Fellowship Training Program Directory. This study obtained educational, demographic, institutional, research, and professional background variables through curriculum vitae, institutional profiles, personal websites, emails, and the Scopus database.

Of the 152 FDs analyzed, 143 (94%) were male, 9 (6%) were female, and the mean age was 52.2 ± 8.5 years. The mean Scopus H-index and mean total citations for all FDs was 27 ± 15.7 and 3782.1 ± 4526.7, respectively. Furthermore, the majority of FDs were Caucasian (69.1%), followed by Asian (20.4%), Black or African American (5.3%), and Hispanic or Latino (5.3%). The mean number of years as FD was 8.9 ± 7.2.

This analysis showed neurosurgery fellowship directors are primarily Caucasian males. Neurosurgery training pedigree seems to play a role in FD attainment. In addition, these directors are largely distinguished by their research productivity. This analysis serves as an insight into the current climate for students aspiring to serve as academic leaders in the field of neurosurgery [1].

Many pathways to positions of leadership exist within pediatric neurological surgery. The authors sought to investigate common trends in leadership among pediatric neurosurgery fellowship directors (FDs) and describe how formalized pediatric neurosurgical training arrived at its current state.

Methods: Fellowship programs were identified using the Accreditation Council for Pediatric Neurosurgery Fellowships website. Demographic, training, membership, and research information was collected via email, telephone, curricula vitae, and online searches.

Results: The authors' survey was sent to all 35 identified FDs, and 21 responses were received. Response data were supplemented with curricula vitae and online data prior to analysis. FDs were predominantly male, self-identified predominantly as Caucasian, and had a mean age of 53 years. The mean duration from residency graduation until FD appointment was 13.4 years. The top training programs to produce future FDs were New York University and Washington University in St. Louis (residency) and Washington University in St. Louis (fellowship).

Conclusions: This study characterizes the current state of pediatric neurosurgery fellowship program leadership. The data serve as an important point of reference to compare with future leadership as well as contrast with neurosurgery and other surgical disciplines in general [2].

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2)
Vallejo FA, Schachner B, VanderVeer-Harris N, Torres AA, Weng J, Chang H, Bollo R, Ragheb J. A

snapshot of contemporary leadership at pediatric neurosurgery fellowships. J Neurosurg Pediatr. 2022 Sep 9:1-6. doi: 10.3171/2022.7.PEDS22133. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 36087318.