



Review

Differences in dermatology training abroad: A comparative analysis of dermatology training in the United States and in India[☆]P. Jhorar, R. Waldman, J. Bordelon, D. Whitaker-Worth^{*}

University of Connecticut, Department of Dermatology, Farmington, CT

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 7 June 2017

Received in revised form 10 July 2017

Accepted 10 July 2017

Keywords:

India

dermatology residency

medical education

ABSTRACT

Dermatology residency training is not standardized internationally, and each country dictates how training is conducted within its own borders. This article highlights the types of variability in training that can occur from country to country by comparing dermatology residency training programs in the United States and India. This article specifically analyzes the differences that pertain to application and selection, residency program structure, and post-residency opportunities.

© 2017 The Authors. Published by Elsevier Inc. on behalf of Women's Dermatologic Society. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).

Introduction

Dermatology residency training is not standardized internationally. Because each individual country dictates how training is conducted, training can vary significantly between countries. Despite this, there is a serious shortage of literature that compares dermatology training programs around the world. This article attempts to bridge that information gap by comparing dermatology residency training programs in the United States and India. These countries were chosen largely because they are among the most populous in the world. Also, one of the authors (Dr. P. Jhorar) completed a dermatology residency in India prior to moving to the United States. She is currently completing her dermatology residency here in the United States.

This article will address the residency application and selection process, the general overall structure of residency programs, and the post-training opportunities that are available to dermatology residents in both India and the United States. Comparing and contrasting dermatologic residency education in these two countries will help further understanding of the type of variability that exists in the training of dermatologists on an international level.

Application and selection for dermatology residency positions in the United States

In the United States, applications for dermatology residency positions open each September for residency positions that matriculate two Julys later (e.g., September 2016 application for July 2018 matriculation; [National Resident Matching Program, 2017a](#)). Participants must register through the NRMP, a national body that oversees and conducts the residency match, and apply through the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS), a centralized application service that distributes a general residency application to participating programs ([NRMP, 2017a](#)). All fourth-year U.S. allopathic or osteopathic medical students, graduates of U.S. allopathic or osteopathic medical schools, and international graduates who are certified by the Educational Commission of Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) are eligible to apply ([NRMP, 2017c](#)). Applicants must also separately secure and satisfactorily complete a minimum of a 1-year internship in either internal medicine, pediatrics, transitional year, obstetrics and gynecology, general surgery, or family medicine to be eligible to begin their residency ([NRMP, 2017c](#)). Although the overwhelming majority of dermatology residency programs require that applicants obtain a separate internship position before starting a dermatology residency in their second year of post-graduate training, there are currently 21 4-year dermatology residency positions that include this internship as part of their training ([NRMP, 2017b](#)). Additionally, there are six combined internal medicine-dermatology residency positions that are 5 years in length ([NRMP, 2017b](#)). Finally, applicants must pass

[☆] Funding sources: This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

^{*} Corresponding Author.

E-mail address: whitaker@uchc.edu (D. Whitaker-Worth).

Table 1

Overview of training in India and the United States

Characteristics	United States	India
Number of Residency Positions	454	Approximately 500
Duration	3 years + 1-year internship	3 years for degree 2 years for diploma
Regulatory Board	ACGME and ABD	MCI
Position Allotment Body	NRMP	Medical Counseling Committee
Admission Requirements	Broad Application including USMLE examinations, MSPE, personal statement, and publications	NEET-PG examination
Graduation Requirements	Discretion of program director	Degree: Thesis + theory, clinical, and oral examinations Diploma: Theory, clinical, and oral examinations
Fellowship Opportunities	ACGME accredited: Dermatopathology and micrographic surgery ABD accredited: Pediatrics ASDS accredited: Cosmetics	No accredited fellowships Many unaccredited options available
Common Epidemiology	Actinic keratosis, non-melanoma skin cancer, benign keratosis, contact dermatitis, atopic dermatitis, psoriasis, and acne vulgaris	Infections, ectoparasites, leprosy, vitiligo, and psoriasis

ABD, American Board of Dermatology; ACGME, Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education; ASDS, American Society for Dermatologic Surgery; MCI, Medical Council of India; MSPE, Medical Student Performance Evaluation; NEET-PG, National Eligibility cum Entrance Test for Postgraduate Training; NRMP, National Resident Matching Program; USMLE, U.S. Medical Licensing Examinations.

all four of the U.S. Medical Licensing Examinations (USMLE) prior to matriculation (i.e., Step 1, Step 2 Clinical Knowledge [CK], Step 2 Clinical Skills [CS], and Step 3; [NRMP, 2017c](#)). These examinations cover information across all specialties and are not specific to dermatology.

As part of the application process, applicants must submit a USMLE Step 1 score, a personal statement, a minimum of three letters of recommendation, medical school transcripts, and a Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE; [NRMP, 2017c](#)). International students must also complete Step 2 CK and Step 2 CS to be eligible to obtain ECFMG certification, which is required to apply for a U.S. residency position ([ECFMG, 2017](#)). The MSPE is a document that is generated by each medical school's dean's office and reviews the academic performance of each medical student ([American Academy of Medical Colleges, 2017](#)). This document contains clerkship grades and evaluations as well as a general overview of the applicant's performance.

Once the application is entered into the ERAS system, applicants specify which programs should receive their application. There is no limit to the number of programs that can be specified, but there is a fee to send each application. After reviewing applications from prospective residents, dermatology residency programs invite a small number of applicants to interview for a dermatology residency position. The average program extends approximately 10 interview invitations per available dermatology residency spot. Although the selection process varies from program to program, a recent survey of program directors across the United States revealed that interviews, letters of recommendation, USMLE Step 1 scores, and medical school transcripts are the most important factors when evaluating candidates ([Gorouhi et al., 2014](#)). Due to the large volume of applications, some programs will set a cutoff for reviewing applications on the basis of USMLE Step 1 scores. A score of 240 is cited as a common cutoff ([Gorouhi et al., 2014](#)). After interviews have been completed, both applicants and programs send in a rank list of their top programs and candidates, respectively. Those lists are then matched by the NRMP in an objective and secure manner ([NRMP, 2017a](#)). All applicants and programs are notified of their match on a specific date and time ([NRMP, 2017a](#)).

Obtaining a dermatology residency position in the United States is exceptionally difficult. In fact, in 2017, less than 70% of 651 applicants who applied for a dermatology residency position were matched to a program ([NRMP, 2017b](#)). This is perhaps due in part to the limited number of available residency positions. In 2017, there were 113 dermatology residency programs in the United States with only 455 available spots ([NRMP, 2017b](#)). As a result of the limited number of

training opportunities, dermatology applicants are expected to have outstanding USMLE Step 1 scores, class rank, and research output. Not surprisingly, dermatology matriculates have the second highest USMLE Step 1 average of any specialty (i.e., 249) and average nearly 12 abstracts, presentations, and publications (average of 11.7; [NRMP, 2017b](#)). Additionally, more than half (52.8%) of successful applicants are members of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honors Society, and nearly half of successful applicants (41.9%) graduate from one of the top 40 U.S. medical schools with the highest National Institute of Health funding ([NRMP, 2017b](#)).

Application and selection for dermatology postgraduate training positions in India

In India, the application and selection process for dermatology postgraduate training positions is distinctly different from the NRMP match. Rather than have applicants submit an extensive application, the selection of dermatology residents in India is based solely on the percentile score obtained on the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test for Postgraduate Training (NEET-PG; [National Board of Examinations, 2017a](#)). The NEET-PG is India's national board examination, which is administered to all medical students and medical school graduates who desire postgraduate training. It is worth noting that prior to 2017, admissions at the state level were determined by state-administered board examinations; however, the Medical Council of India has now abolished these examinations, and only the NEET-PG is used to allot postgraduate training positions ([National Board of Examinations, 2017a](#)). There is one exception to the use of NEET-PG for seat allotment: Three upper-echelon institutions utilize their own admissions test.

The NEET-PG is taken by medical students during the December of their internship, a mandatory year after 4.5 years of undergraduate medical training during which students rotate through a variety of departments. Only those who score above the 50th percentile on the NEET-PG are eligible for consideration for postgraduate training positions ([National Board of Examinations, 2017a](#)). However, due to an affirmative action effort by the Indian government designed to increase the number of individuals from scheduled castes (SC), scheduled tribes (ST), and other backwards classes (OBC) receiving training positions, members of these groups are only required to score in the 40th percentile or above on the NEET-PG to be considered eligible for postgraduate training positions ([National Board of Examinations, 2017a](#)). The government reserves positions specifically for members of these groups.

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/5645965>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/5645965>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)