Are we Adequately Fueling Research in an Academic Ob/Gyn Residency Program?

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Abstract

Study Objective:
The ACGME requires ob/gyn residency programs to "allocate adequate educational resources to facilitate resident involvement in scholarly activities" and establish a curriculum that "advances residents' knowledge of the basic principles of research." [1] Although several studies describe and assess resident research structure in ob/gyn programs, there are few studies evaluating the research experience from residents' perspectives. [2] We sought to assess ob/gyn residents' perception of research needs and existing training structure at our institution.

Methods:
A 21-question anonymous survey was administered to PGY 2-4 ob/gyn residents. The survey asked residents about their priority of, support for, and engagement in research.

Results:
Among 18 residents surveyed, 16 responded, of which 11 were senior residents. While 81% prioritize research during residency, other results indicate they may not have resources necessary to effectively conduct research.
Only 56% report receiving formal training in clinical research skills or methodology thus far during residency. However, 87.5% report having an established mentor relationship. Mentors helped with a variety of research tasks. 78.6% of mentors helped with identifying a question, and 71.4% of mentors help to draft a research plan. 78.6% of mentors help to guide data collection. Other tasks however have less mentor involvement. Only 42.9% of mentors helped with data analysis, and 35.7% help with interpretation of the results.
While mentorship may be the primary method of learning research skills, 68.75% ranked research mentorship in their top 3 desired resources.

Conclusions:
Our study indicates that while residents at our program have a keen interest in pursuing research during training, they are lacking a structured curriculum and quality mentorship to conduct effective research. Implementation of a structured research experience with quality mentorship and access to research resources may improve residents' experience and productivity with scholarly endeavors.

References: