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Education Research

Poster Title

Trends in breast surgery fellowship training

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Abstract

Introduction: Breast Surgical Oncology developed as a subspecialty of General Surgery over the last decade. In 2003 the Surgical Society of Oncology (SSO) created breast fellowship programs and the match system started in 2004. In our study, we looked at the evolution of breast surgery training between 2004-2015.

Methods: The SSO statistics and data from the American Society of Breast Surgery (ASBS) from the Annual 2015 meeting were obtained. Additionally, a survey for a subgroup of 2014 fellows was performed.

Results: Since 2004, the number of training programs increased by 62.5% (as of 2013) which closely correlated with the increased number of training positions (by 68.8% in 2013 compared to 2004). The number of applicants doubled in that same period.

At inception in 2004 there were 24 programs, 32 positions and only 34 applicants. That has grown to 39 programs, 54 positions and 67 applicants in 2013.

An interview of a sample of current fellows (which included 20 fellows from the 2014 match), showed that 15% are pursuing their first attending position in an academic institution, 40% in community hospital with academic institution affiliation and 45% in community hospital or private practice.

Conclusion: Our data suggests that continued advances in cancer biology and multidisciplinary care have driven the evolution of the breast surgery fellowship.