

[S18.003] Impact of a Neurology Clerkship Experience on Student Perception of Their Clinical Skills and Career Choice

Imran I. Ali, Leah White, Nabeel A. Herial, Gretchen Tietjen, Toledo, OH

OBJECTIVE: To assess the effect of a standardized Neurology Clerkship on student perception of 1- Acquisition of clinical skills 2- Selection of neurology as a career choice. **BACKGROUND:** Neurology post-graduate training programs in the US have seen a consistent decline in enrollment over the last decade even though advances in neurological diagnosis and therapeutics have outstripped other disciplines. Student interest in neurology may be affected by a variety of factors. At this time there are limited data available for educators to identify, assess or analyze these factors that may be affecting student attitude towards neurology. Since the Neurology Clerkship at our institution is rated as excellent by > 50% of graduating students (24% national average based on AAMC Graduation Questionnaire), we, therefore, analyzed the influence of our clerkship on student perceptions. **DESIGN/METHODS:** After Institutional Review Board approval, pre and post questionnaires were distributed to 150 consecutive medical students who completed the fourth year neurology clerkship at University of Toledo. **Data Collection.** Each questionnaire examined core curriculum objectives, and the perception of neurology as a specialty. Responses for all questions were recorded on a Likert scale. **Statistical analysis.** To determine the statistical significance of the relationship between change in pre and post administered questionnaires Wilcoxon-signed rank test was performed. **RESULTS:** There were eleven questions in the pre- and post-test related to student perception of their clinical skills such as history taking, neurological examination, development of differential diagnosis, interpretation of data and management. There was a substantial improvement in student's perception of their clinical competence pre and post clerkship experience ($p < 0.001$). A significantly higher number of students based on their clerkship experience considered neurology as a career choice ($p < 0.001$). **CONCLUSIONS/RELEVANCE:** A standardized well-organized clerkship has a positive impact on student assessment of their clinical performance and may impact their career choice.