

**[P05.002] Choosing a Neurology Residency Program: What Variables Are Important? A Survey Study**

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**OBJECTIVE:** To elucidate the factors a neurology residency applicant should explore while selecting a program as based on a national survey of American neurology residency directors, faculty, fellows and residents. This will help applicants make an informed decision in choosing the program of their choice. **BACKGROUND:** There is no published data on the criteria that an applicant should be considering before choosing the program as based on the experience and opinion from both current residents and faculty members. **DESIGN/METHODS:** A qualitative study where web-based questionnaires were distributed electronically to Neurology Faculty, Program directors, Fellows & Residents from University as well as private hospitals throughout the USA. Open ended & closed questions(with Likert Scale)were used. **RESULTS:** Out of the 400 questionnaires emailed, 327 responded (response rate 87%) representing 72 number of institutions. 194 were faculty members, 66 Program directors, 26 fellows and 39 residents. Factors that were deemed appropriate and essential to a choice of program overriding all other variables were: quality of teaching (97%), departmental working environmental (92%). Factors that were deemed important but not necessarily essential to selecting a program: reputation of the institute (89%), work load (clinical case load/continuity clinic:76%), range of subspecialty clinic (75%) and availability of mentors (75%). Specific advice for Neurology applicants included assessing the quality of teaching in the program through interaction with other residents (89%) and provision for special classes focusing on neuroradiology, EEG/EMG (78%). Factors that made a neurology residency program “competitive” were: reputation of the institute (95%), range of subspecialty clinic experience(62%) and scope of future fellowship(57%). **CONCLUSIONS/RELEVANCE:** The results of this national survey provides specific criteria for future applicants of Neurology training programs and Neurology Program directors. Quality of teaching, departmental working environment & reputation of the faculty/ department are the most important factors that should be considered in selecting a program.