

[S20.003] Comparison of Third and Fourth Year Neurology Clerkship Experience and Its Impact on Attitudes towards Neurology

Imran I. Ali, Nabeel Herial, Toledo, OH, Joanne Lynn, Columbus, OH, Gretchen Tietjen, Toledo, OH

OBJECTIVE: To compare the impact of the year of Neurology Clerkship experience on student attitude towards the discipline of Neurology **BACKGROUND:** The Consortium of Neurology Clerkship Directors and the American Academy of Neurology recommends that all medical schools provide an adequate neurology clerkship experience in the third year of medical school. Early experience will not only positively impact student training but also provide an opportunity for students to choose neurology as a career. There is, however, no study showing impact of the year of the clerkship on student attitudes towards neurology or selection of neurology as a career. **DESIGN/METHODS:** Students rotating in a required neurology clerkship at Ohio State University (third year) and University of Toledo (fourth year) were given questionnaires before and after completing a four week experience. Information regarding their perceived level of competence in clinical domains and attitudes towards neurology as a career choice were obtained and analyzed. **RESULTS:** Students in both third and fourth year clerkship felt competent and more confident about their ability to perform a neurological evaluation ($p < 0.001$), develop an assessment and management plan ($p < 0.001$) after completing the required clerkship. However, the scores related to student's perception of their capabilities were generally higher for all categories for students in the fourth year of training. There was no difference overall in students perception of neurology as a discipline based on the year of training but more students in the third year of training were considering neurology as a career choice than those in the fourth year ($p = 0.01$). **CONCLUSIONS/RELEVANCE:** This study suggests that early clinical experience have an impact on student's career choices. Medical schools with neurology clerkship in the third year of medical school are more likely to attract students to the discipline of neurology Supported by: None