

[P05.003] Neurology Residency Training Programs in Argentina

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OBJECTIVE: To characterize neurology residency programs in Argentina and compare them with their US counterparts. **BACKGROUND:** Residency programs consist of full time positions of remunerated postgraduate education and clinical training. Close contact with patients and supervised clinical work are hallmarks of this training modality. There is limited information about neurology programs in Argentina and South America

DESIGN/METHODS: Ten out of 16 available residency programs in Argentina were assessed through a standard questionnaire and compared with the FREIDA database (American Medical Association) of US training centers.

RESULTS: Each year 28 residents are selected and appointed to 16 residency training programs in Argentina, for a total country population of 36 million inhabitants. Matched applicants in Argentina and the US: 20% vs 95% (excluding foreign applicants), respectively. In our country non-matched applicants acquire clinical skills through a non-salaried system. Average program length is similar in both countries: 4 years. Access to Internet and relevant journals: 87.5% in Argentina and 100 % in the US and. Research activities during residency: 87.5% in Argentina and 100% in the US. Average workload per week: 47 hours in Argentina and 60 in the US; in the former, residents work full hours after an overnight call, and in the latter, they may leave after morning rounds. Subspecialty rotations are similar in both countries, but in Argentina research and psychiatry are not routinely part of the training program.

CONCLUSIONS/RELEVANCE: In Argentina a small proportion of applicants obtain a residency position in Neurology. Program content and work conditions are similar, except for access to research activities. Availability of academic resources tends to be higher in the US.