Émigré Physicians’ Experiences Attending an American Osteopathic Medical School
Brandon Burg, OMS II, Leslie Goldstein, Pharm.D., Karen Sheflin, D.O., Abraham Jeger, Ph.D., Min Kyung-Jung, Ph.D.
New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine, Long Island (NYITCOM-LI)

Significance
- Over 60,000 foreign-trained doctors living in the U.S. are not licensed in the US.
- NYITCOM provides a unique path to residency in the US by allowing these Émigré Physicians (EPs) to obtain a US Osteopathic Medicine degree after completing the four-year medical school curriculum.
- NYITCOM, through its unique Émigré Physicians Program (EPP), provides a diverse group of students with a unique path to medical licensing and residency as osteopathic physicians.
- AACC established a Diversity Committee in 2015 “with the goal of increasing the diversity of applicants to the nation’s colleges of osteopathic medicine (COMs), and sharing resources to support prospective and current minority DO students as they navigate through medical school”.

Research Questions
1) Why did the EPs in NYITCOM’s EPP leave their home countries?
2) Why did the EPs surveyed enter NYITCOM’s EPP?
3) What are the perceptions of the respondents as to how well NYITCOM’s undergraduate medical education prepared them to be competitive applicants in the US residency match and for clinical practice in the US?
4) What are the EPs’ perceptions of NYITCOM’s EPP?

Methods & Data Analysis
- 501 EP students who matriculated between 1998-2017 were sent an online survey; 67 non-EPP students were excluded.
- 154 participants responded (21%).
- An incentive of twenty $25 gift cards was offered.
- Cross sectional, mixed methods study, convergent design.
- Quantitative: Demographic information and scaled data of respondents perspectives on how well NYITCOM prepared EPs for residency matches and clinical practice were analyzed by correlation and linear regression analysis using IBM SPSS Statistics 23 and statistical significance was determined by a p-value of <0.05.
- Qualitative: Textual data was obtained from survey participants’ comments and organized on an Excel spreadsheet. Codes were derived from the text and used as an index to retrieve text. Categories were derived and themes were identified.

Results
PREPARED TO BE COMPETITIVE IN THE RESIDENCY MATCH

PREPARED TO BE A PRACTICING PHYSICIAN

NYITCOM ADMISSIONS DIFFICULTY

Conclusion
- NYITCOM’s admission process and preparation for practice were the strongest predictors of preparedness for residency match.
- The NYITCOM education and the EP’s ability to communicate and read in English also correlated positively with preparedness for residency match.
- EPs who participated in the study expressed an overall favorable experience with the NYITCOM curriculum and the EPP.
- A common concern was the need to indicate on residency applications that the USMLE has been taken more than one time.

References

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