



Leadership Benchmarks for Academic Hand Surgery Training Programs in the United States



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Introduction

- Benchmarks are lacking that define the qualifications for hand surgery fellowship director (HSFD) positions
- This study characterizes HSFDs in the United States.

Methods

- American Medical Association’s Residency and Fellowship Database (FREIDA) was queried for hand surgery fellowship training programs
- HSFD names were abstracted and data encompassing scholarly activity, academic characteristics, and training pedigree were collected from the academic websites

Results

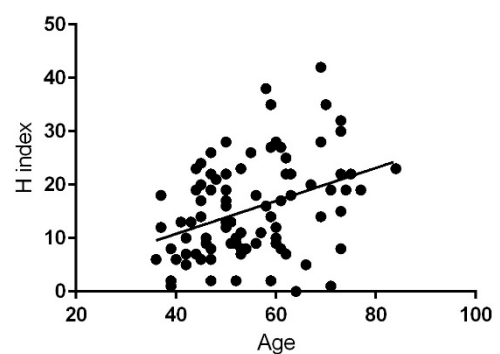
- 92 HSFDs (73 orthopedic surgery, 17 plastic surgery, 2 general surgery) were identified
- The majority were male (87%) and Caucasian (82%)
- Mean age was 54.5 ± 11 years and most were trained in orthopedic surgery (80%)
- Mean h-index was 15.3 ± 9 from an average of 57.0 ± 47 publications

Results

- 10% of orthopedic hand surgery fellowship programs were run by a plastic surgery residency trained HSFD versus 0% of plastic surgery hand fellowship programs run by an orthopedic surgery residency trained HSFD (p < 0.05)
- Orthopedic and plastic surgery HSFDs had similar levels of scholarly activity (p>0.05)

Bibliometrics	Orthopedic		Plastic		General		P*
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
Number of publications	60.5	49.9	50.8	27.2	2.5	3.5	0.276
Number of citations	1505	2476	838	556	10.5	14.8	0.039
H-index	15.9	9.4	14.4	6.2	1.0	1.4	0.401

Table 2. Research Qualifications of Hand Surgery Fellowship Directors (HSFDs). *Students t test with Welch’s correction between orthopedic and plastic surgery



- Older age correlated with higher h-index values (Pearson coefficient, r = 0.38, p < 0.001)

Figure 1. Correlation of H-index and Age of Hand Surgery Fellowship Directors (HSFDs)

Hand Surgery Fellowship Program	HSFD Name	H index
University of California Davis Health Program	Robert M Szabo MD, MPH	42
Washington University/B-JH/SLCH Consortium Program	Martin I Boyer MD, MS, MSc	38
UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine/UCLA Medical Center Program	Prosper Benhaim MD	35
New York Presbyterian Hospital (Columbia Campus) Program	Melvin P Rosenwasser MD	35
Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University/TJUH Program	A Lee Osterman MD	32

Table 3. Top Five Hand Surgery Fellowship Directors (HSFDs) as Measured by H-index

Conclusion

- HSFDs have strong research backgrounds and similar characteristics despite disparate training pathways
- Women and racial minority groups are largely underrepresented among leadership positions at hand surgery fellowships
- These benchmarks can help inform future diversity initiatives.

References

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