

CAPER data allows for the tracking of fellowship participation in Canadian postgraduate training programs across time and specialties. Recent employment surveys of new certificants conducted by the Royal College indicate that many residents are pursuing fellowship training for the purpose of increasing their chances for employment¹. Among the specialties experiencing employment challenges were cardiac surgery, otolaryngology, orthopedic surgery, radiation oncology, hematology and urology.

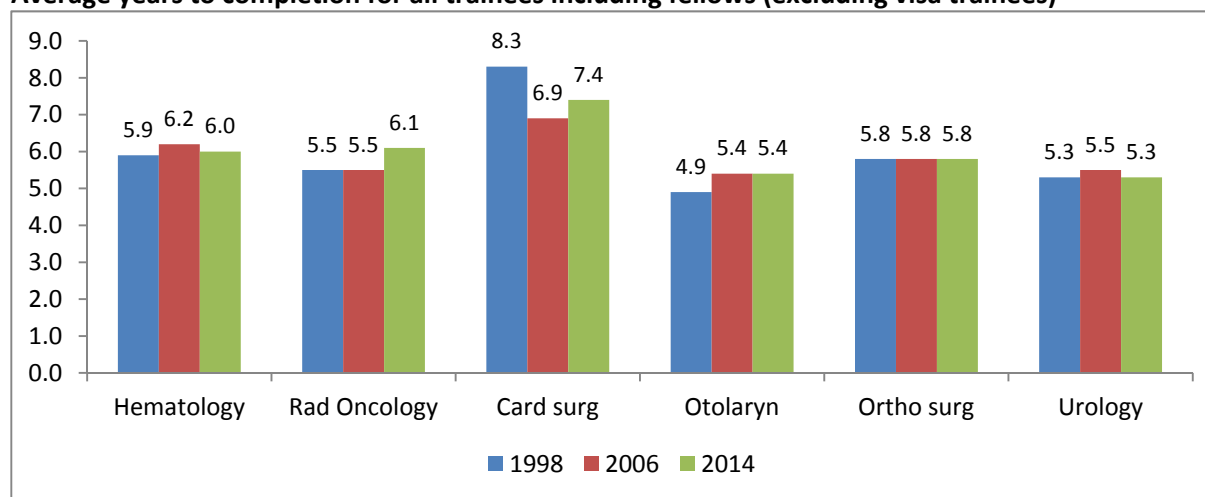
Number of fellows in training (excluding visa trainees) and percent of all trainees in that specialty

Specialty	1998		2006		2014	
	#	% all rank levels	#	% all rank levels	#	% all rank levels
Hematology	10	25.6%	16	29.6%	15	19.2%
Radiation oncology	11	13.6%	12	7.4%	11	8.3%
Cardiac surgery	1	2.1%	4	7.3%	11	17.4%
Otolaryngology	4	3.6%	6	5.0%	20	11.6%
Orthopedic surgery	31	10.9%	35	10.5%	93	19.4%
Urology	7	6.1%	18	13.4%	16	8.4%

There have been substantial increases in the number of fellows for most of the above specialties, however, as a percentage of all trainees in that specialty, results varies. Cardiac surgery, otolaryngology and orthopedic surgery have all seen increases in both volume and in relative terms.

Another possible indicator of increased participation in fellowship programs is an increase in the average time it takes all trainees (from year-one) to complete their program and enter the workforce. Average time in training is the actual years in training, not a lag time between start and finish.

Average years to completion for all trainees including fellows (excluding visa trainees)



With the exception of radiation oncology and otolaryngology, the number of fellows does not yet appear to result in an increase in 2015 the overall average time to completion of all residents in the specialty programs selected here.

¹ Presentation by Danielle Frechette at 2015 Royal College Physician Employment Summit. <http://tinyurl.com/ptk4abm>

2733 Lancaster Road, Suite 100
Ottawa, ON K1B 0A9. Tel: 613-730-1204

www.caper.ca