It is also important to note that 15/19 (78.9%) respondents who had fellows in their training program felt they had adequate training to pursue fellowship vs. 80.5% (70/87) in programs without fellows (p<0.05). 19/106 (17.9%) of respondents who felt they had adequate exposure to decide on whether or not to pursue otology/ neurotology fellowship, as well as between respondents who DID and DID NOT have fellows in their program felt they had adequate training to pursue fellowship vs. 80.5% (70/87) in programs without fellows (p<0.05).

**RESULTS**

**METHODS**

An anonymous, web-based survey of senior residents, and graduates from the last 4 years from approved ACGME programs was performed. The survey was prepared using the Research Electronic Data Capture (Redcap), internet-based data capture platform at West Virginia University. Survey respondents could elect to enter their emails into a pool for random drawing of a $100 gift card to encourage participation.

**CONCLUSIONS**

The results of the study confirmed the hypothesis that earlier exposure to otologic procedures better prepares trainees about whether or not to pursue a fellowship in this field.

The presence of fellows in the training program enhanced training in many ways; being associated with earlier partner performance and higher likelihood of achieving proficiency in some otologic procedures.

**DISCUSSION**

Our survey represents a variety of resident otologic experiences through training. The data indicates that those residents who thought they had adequate exposure to decide on whether or not to pursue fellowship in otology had earlier exposure in all otologic cases in question.

Overall fellows within the residency program appeared to be beneficial to resident training. Respondents with fellows were more likely to perform stapedectomy and cochlear implant earlier and, in the case of cochlear implant, they reached autonomous proficiency earlier.

The presence of fellows in a program was associated with higher likelihood of performing stapedectomy in respondents’ future practice. The presence of fellows did not appear to affect plans to perform the other four procedures in respondents’ future practice.

**REFERENCES**


