Physician Training: Too Long to Learn?
Brian Kang, Walter J. Pories, MD; Spencer Cooke, Zach Miller

INTRODUCTION

• While medical education across the United States and other countries shares common objectives, such as producing competent and compassionate physicians, the differences in admission process, duration and cost of training reflect the diverse educational systems and cultural contexts.

• Problems with current medical education?
  ➢ Cost
  ➢ Duration
  ➢ A shortage of physicians, especially in primary care

AIM

• This comparative analysis of medical education in the United States, Europe and East Asia sheds light on the key similarities and differences in their respective systems and examines how the current U.S. medical education model can be improved.

MATERIALS & METHODS

• Compared the duration and cost of physician training in the United States to other developed countries including Germany, Australia, Canada, Japan, and United Kingdom.

• Matriculating Student Questionnaire (MSQ) from AAMC used to look at the age of matriculation, debt, and cost of application.

RESULTS

U.S. and Canada rank 11th and 10th among eleven nations on health system performance measures, which included access to care, care process, administrative efficiency, equity, and health care outcomes.

![Diagram showing duration of postsecondary medical schooling in different countries]

- Residency (3 – 5 years)
- Core + Specialty Training (3 – 8 years)
- Fellowship (1 – 5 years)
- Medical School (4 years)
- Undergraduate (4 years)

Table: Estimated cost of education after secondary school

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Graduate Entry Program (GEP)</th>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Medical School</th>
<th>Residency</th>
<th>Medical School</th>
<th>Residency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>(4 years)</td>
<td>(3 years)</td>
<td>(3 – 5 years)</td>
<td>(3 – 6 years)</td>
<td>(3 – 5 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>(4 years)</td>
<td>(3 years)</td>
<td>(3 – 5 years)</td>
<td>(3 – 6 years)</td>
<td>(3 – 5 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>U.K.</td>
<td>(4 years)</td>
<td>(3 years)</td>
<td>(3 – 5 years)</td>
<td>(3 – 6 years)</td>
<td>(3 – 5 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>(3 years)</td>
<td>(3 years)</td>
<td>(3 – 5 years)</td>
<td>(3 – 6 years)</td>
<td>(3 – 5 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>(3 years)</td>
<td>(3 years)</td>
<td>(3 – 5 years)</td>
<td>(3 – 6 years)</td>
<td>(3 – 5 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Japan (CAMPP)</td>
<td>(3 years)</td>
<td>(3 years)</td>
<td>(3 – 5 years)</td>
<td>(3 – 6 years)</td>
<td>(3 – 5 years)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There were no significant differences in AOA selection, quintile performance distribution, or USMLE scores between traditional and accelerated program students.

DISCUSSION

• The current approach is unsustainable

• The countries with shorter duration of physician training has better health system performance than the countries that use GEM.

• In 2023, 31 U.S. medical schools are participating in 3 year accelerated medical education system (CAMPP) that shortens overall training duration by 1 year to make medical education more efficient and affordable.

• Consider experimental models in selected medical schools
  ➢ 6-year-programs after high school
  ➢ Reconsider curricula in view of new methodologies
  ➢ Competency rather than time-based advancement
  ➢ Less focus on memorization, more on logic and use of computer resources
  ➢ Reduction of debt in rural, underserved areas

REFERENCES

9. ADAMS, Michael L. "Three Year MD Programs: Perspectives from the Consortium of Accelerated Medical Pathway Programs (CAMPP)." Academic Medicine, vol. 82, no. 4, Apr. 2007, pp. 403-06.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

• The Brody School of Medicine, Summer Scholars Research Program

• I would like to thank Dr. Brewer and SSRP staff for their support and guidance for this experience.

• Special thanks to Dr. Pories and Department of Surgical Research at ECU for their guidance and mentorship this summer.