

Comments on: Senior residency: An opportunity missed?

Dear Editor,

As technology has advanced and the understanding of the subject has improved, Ophthalmology training has undergone tremendous upliftment specially in the past two decades.^[1] But the challenge post residency is always to decide whether to opt for a structured fellowship programme or a comprehensive senior residency (SRship) training. We read the article by Srivastava *et al.* and the authors and the editorial board of Indian Journal of Ophthalmology richly deserves applause for publishing this excellent article.^[2] This is one such topic which is untouched since long and needs an in depth analysis which we feel will be beneficial for the young ophthalmologist's in shaping their carrier ahead. We have tried for a neck to neck comparison of fellowship vs senior residency in a tabular format.

Both fellowship and SRship have their own pros and cons. Eventually it is up to the candidate to decide what suits him/her more based on the circumstances and preferred choices. Additionally, the All India Ophthalmic Society (AIOS) as well as the International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO) can formulate guidelines for fellowship and senior residency as well as they already exist for residency programme.^[3,4] This will help in narrowing down the differences between fellowships and senior residency and bring the candidates in the same sailing boat. Medical Council of India (MCI) should also formulate guidelines for considering fellowship equal to senior residency for candidates applying to Medical Colleges. This will further reduce differences and will help in increasing

job application for medical colleges even in remote parts of India in near future.^[5]

Acknowledgements

Aravind Eye Hospital and Post Graduate Institute of Ophthalmology, Pondicherry.

Financial support and sponsorship

Nil.

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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2. Srivastava RM, Agrawal S. Senior residency: An opportunity missed? Indian J Ophthalmol 2020;68:2319-20.
3. Honavar SG. Ophthalmology residency training in India: Quo vadis? Indian J Ophthalmol 2017;65:427-8.
4. Grover AK, Honavar SG, Azad R, Verma L. A national curriculum

Parameter	Fellowship	Senior Residency
Duration	1-2 years in majority institutes	Usually 2-3 years
Exam pattern	Usually no entrance and exit exam. Interview based Note -Some top institutes like LVPEI, Sankar Netralaya and Aravind Eye Care System have an entrance exam for some specialities	Usually no entrance and exit exam. Interview based Note -Some top institutes like AIIMS, PGI have an entrance exam
Exposure	Cataract + Speciality exposure Retina usually have no cataract exposure at majority centres	SR ship makes you an excellent comprehensive ophthalmologist.
Working hours	Usually 8-10 hours	Usually 6-8 hours rotation
Night duty	Must	May or may not be
Rewards	Fellowship Certificate + Speciality focussed experience	More comprehensive ophthalmology exposure
Stipend	+	+++
Academics	+++ More academic and publication oriented exposure specially in tertiary eye care institutes. More inclination for speciality oriented publications	Good academic exposure with indexed publications as a motivation for promotion.
Publications and Research exposure		
Emphasis	Training	Teaching > Training
Patient profile	More exposure of speciality referred cases like Cornea, Glaucoma, Retina, etc	All patient exposure along with multispeciality referrals
Mentor/ Senior interaction	More(Training)	Less (Teaching > Training)
Job opportunities	Continue in same institute/ corporate hospital as a super specialist Private practice Switch to another place Medical college work as a SR	Continue in same Medical college Private practice Fellowship Switch to another place

for ophthalmology residency training. Indian J Ophthalmol 2018;66:752-83.

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Access this article online	
Quick Response Code:	Website: www.ijo.in
	DOI: 10.4103/ijo.IJO_3306_20

Cite this article as: Gurnani B, Kaur K. Comments on: Senior residency: An opportunity missed?. Indian J Ophthalmol 2021;69:458-9.

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