

Assessment and Evaluation of Online Content Available on Micrographic Surgery and Dermatologic Oncology Fellowship Websites

Chapman Wei MD,^a Edward W. Seger MD MS,^b Spencer P. McClure MD,^b Anand N. Rajpara MD^b

^aDepartment of Medicine, Staten Island University Hospital, Staten Island, NY

^bDivision of Dermatology, University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, MO

INTRODUCTION

Matching into a micrographic surgery and dermatologic oncology (MSDO) fellowship is exceedingly competitive, resulting in applicants thoroughly researching potential programs.¹ Previous studies have stated that applicants do heavily use information found on program website information when evaluating fellowship programs.² Although traditional factors such as interviews historically played a large role in recruiting applicants, online-based content has increasingly become an important avenue for disseminating program-related information, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic which has largely prevented in-person visits.³ Given the increasing growth of dermatology residency applicants wanting to pursue MSDO fellowships, we conducted this study to assess and evaluate the accessibility and availability of MSDO fellowship applicant-relevant information on MSDO fellowship program websites.

Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)-accredited MSDO fellowship programs were identified in April 2021. Based on previous studies, MSDO fellowship program websites were evaluated for the following applicant-relevant content: Mohs surgical case volume, case types, level of autonomy, presence of aesthetic procedure experience, multispecialty interaction, percentage of time spent performing general dermatology, on-call responsibilities, and moonlighting

opportunities.⁴ The 'website completeness' was calculated as the percentage of the presence of the collective website variables for each program website.

Of 77 MSDO fellowship programs, 58 programs have websites (Table 1). Twenty-seven (47%) programs provide information about amount of Mohs surgical cases fellows perform and 39 (67%) programs provide information about the type of cases and procedures performed. Forty (69%) programs provide information about the level of aesthetic procedures fellows perform. 31 (53%) programs mention opportunities to rotate with other specialties, including oculoplastic surgery, plastic surgery, and otolaryngological surgery. Only one (2%) program mentioned information about fellows spending time performing general dermatology duties, two (3%) programs mentioned information about on-call responsibilities, and zero programs discussed moonlighting opportunities. The average website completeness was 33±19%. The highest completeness was 88%.

Currently, there remains a paucity of applicant-relevant information on MSDO fellowship websites based on our study's evaluation. While more than half of websites include information about types of cases, aesthetic procedure experience, and opportunities to rotate with other specialties, applicant-relevant information regarding information like case volume is often

TABLE 1.

Fellowship Website Characteristics: Micrographic Surgery and Dermatologic Oncology	
MSDO Fellowship Program Website Details (N=58)	N (%)
Information about the number of Mohs surgical cases fellows may expect per year	27 (46.6)
Information about the type of cases and procedures performed	39 (67.2)
Information about the level of autonomy that the fellow receives during fellowship	10 (17.2)
Information about the level of cosmetic/aesthetic procedure that the fellow has	40 (69.0)
Information about exposure/interaction with other specialties (eg, oculoplastics, plastic surgery, otolaryngology)	31 (53.4)
Information about time spent in general dermatology during fellowship	1 (1.7)
Information about on-call responsibility	2 (3.4)
Information about moonlighting opportunities	0 (0.0)
Completeness on information sought (mean % ± standard deviation)	32.6%±19.3 (0-87.5)

missing. Furthermore, even amongst academic programs, variation exists in the types of malignancies treated using Mohs surgery, which may be an important consideration when selecting fellowship programs.⁵ As a result, alternative avenues such as discussion with current fellows remain an important aspect in allowing a potential applicant to learn more information about prospective programs. Optimizing online-based content on program websites to display essential applicant-relevant information may not only help applicants make better informed decisions, but also improve program recruitment for their best-fit applicants.⁵ This study has several limitations: our study is a cross-sectional study and does not include potential information that may be provided by the programs during the application process. Despite this, MSDO programs may use our findings as a foundation to improve website accessible information for fellowship applicants.

DISCLOSURES

The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

REFERENCES

1. Feng H, Belkin DA, Feng PW, et al. Micrographic surgery and dermatologic oncology fellowship selection criteria. *Dermatol Surg.* 2019;45(3):398-403.
2. Shaath MK, Avilucea FR, Lim PK, et al. Increasing fellowship recruitment: how can fellowship program websites be optimized? *J Am Acad Orthop Surg.* 2020;28(24):e1105-e1110.
3. Vining CC, Eng OS, Hogg ME, et al. (2020). Virtual surgical fellowship recruitment during covid-19 and its implications for resident/fellow recruitment in the future. *Ann Surg Oncol.* 2020; 18(5):1-5.
4. Homer N, Yoon MK. Evaluation of the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (ASOPRS) fellowship program website content and quality. *Opthal Plast Reconstr Surg.* 2017;33(6): 471-473.
5. Siscos SM, Neill BC, Seger EW, et al. The current state of Mohs surgery for the treatment of melanoma: a nationwide cross-sectional survey of Mohs surgeons. *Dermatol Surg.* 2020;46(10):1267-1271.

AUTHOR CORRESPONDENCE

Edward W. Seger MD MS

E-mail:..... eseger2@kumc.edu