

Narainsai K. Reddy¹, Daniel S. Sasson², James R. Wester², Arun K. Gosain^{1,2}

¹Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and ²Department of Pediatrics, Stanley Manne Children's Research Institute, Chicago, IL, USA; ²Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, IL, USA

INTRODUCTION

Within plastic surgery, incorporating international rotations into the residency curriculum is a tedious process requiring multiple bodies to sign off. This has caused significant variability between programs with regards to the international rotations they are able to offer to their residents. This variability is partly due to the institutional and national requirements that residency program directors must satisfy to incorporate international rotations into their residency curriculums. International rotations must be approved by the American Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) to allow the cases done during these rotations to count toward the case logs for participating residents. To gain ACGME approval for an international rotation, each rotation site requires approval from the home institution's designated institutional officer (DIO), a signed Program Letter of Agreement (PLA) between the host institution and the rotation site, and on-site faculty who meet the home institution's educational criteria. As a next step, programs must obtain approval from the ACGME Plastic Surgery Residency Review Committee (RRC) and the American Board of Plastic Surgery (ABPS). Many programs that cannot meet their institution's DIO requirements and subsequently the national RRC/ABPS requirements cannot offer international rotations as part of their curriculums or count cases abroad as part of residents' yearly case logs.

METHODS

A survey was sent out to program directors of all 102 integrated and independent plastic surgery programs that existed at the time of this study (Fig. 1). Using the 57 responses, we identified those programs that have received DIO or DIO and RRC approval. The 30 programs that have received approval status were used to create a database describing the nature of each program's international rotations for its residents.

RESULTS

Program	Program Type	Program Length (years)	Number of Residents/Class	Designated Institutional Officer (DIO) Approved	Rotations Included in Case Log (RRC Approved)	Participating Residents	Institution's Minimum Rotation Length (Days)	Program's Minimum Rotation Length (Days)
	Integrated	6	2	Yes	Yes	PGY-4 PGY-5 PGY-6	10	10
	Program's Maximum Rotation Length (Days)	Rotation Site(s)	Consistent or Variable Yearly Site(s)	Permitted Participation During Vacation	Active Resident Participation in Recent Years	PRS Resident Participaton from Outside Institutions	Coverage Offered	
	30	India Sweden	Variable	Yes	Yes		1. Health Insurance 2. Malpractice Insurance 3. Salary	

Figure 1. Sample row of database with characteristics about a program's international rotations

Characteristics of Database:

- Basic program structure
- DIO/RRC approval status of rotations
- Postgraduate year of participating residents
- Minimum & maximum durations of rotations
- Rotation sites
- Approval status for using vacation time to participate
- Status of recent resident participation
- Approval for resident participation from outside institutions
- Types of coverage offered



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<https://acaplasticsurgeons.org/global-health/>

Figure 4. Location of the database for public access

CONCLUSIONS

- Database will serve as a resource for applicants
- A centralized list will stimulate programs to seek approval for their rotations, create multi-institutional partnerships, and arm program directors data to obtain institutional approval
- Database will incentivize programs to sustainably explore global health involvement within their institutions and inspire other specialties to promote global health opportunities during residency