Family Physician Training in Israel

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Family Medicine Training in Israel

- A HMO based health system (with private aspects).
- The entire Israeli population is ensured thru four public HMO’s (=“Health Funds”).
- All the HMO’s offer a residency program for family physicians.
- The residency program is governed by the scientific council in the Israeli Medical Association.
**History: from apprenticeship to Academic Family Medicine**

- Previously: General practitioner = no specialty training
- Since 1964: compulsory rotation in Family Medicine in all medical schools
- 1969 USA: Family Practice new specialty approved (the 20th specialty)
- Since 1971: post graduate residency training (first at Clalit Health Services)
- Now: 13 academic departments in Family Medicine (7 at Clalit Health Services)
A few numbers

- Total Physicians in Israel ~ 36,000 (3.5 per 1000, like OECD average)
- 20-25% Primary care physicians (FM+pediatrics)
- 5% Family medicine specialists – 5%~1900
Total residents at the end of the year 2000-2015
Number of Residents at the end of the year

![Graph showing the number of residents in various medical fields over the years.]

- Family medicine: 533 (~9%)
Number of NEW Residents

Each year > 100 new FP residents

- Internal medicine
- Family medicine
- Pediatrics
- OB/GYN
- Anesthesiology
- Gen. surgery

130~10%
## Residency training in Family Medicine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Practice - step A</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Working under/with a mentor supervision in the clinic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Working in the same capacity as a resident in the relevant department.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Medicine</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Independent work with guidance of an instructor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective 1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective 2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Practice - step B</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Community : Hospital ratio = 29C / 17H = 1.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL = 4 years</td>
<td>27 C + 17 H + 4 E</td>
<td>In addition - A six semester post graduate academic program</td>
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In addition - A six semester post graduate academic program
Community Practice – Main clinical issues

- Common acute problems
- Management of chronic illnesses
- Coordination of care of patients with multiple problems
- Preventive care
- Palliative care
- Communication skills
Variety of Settings

- Urban vs. Rural
- Adjacent vs. Distant (to a tertiary medical center)
- High vs. Low socioeconomic communities
Variety of Settings

The basic unit:
- 1-5 Family Doctor(s)
- ? Pediatrician(s)
- Nurse(s)
- Office Clerk(s)

Optional, in larger clinics:
- Part time or visiting consultants:
  - Orthopedics, ENT, Ophthalmology,
  - Dermatology, Gynecology, Psychiatry,
  - Geriatry…
- Part time social worker, dietician, speech therapist, …
Variety of Communities

- Immigrant based society (European, Fmr. Soviet Union, North African, Near East, Ethiopian)

- Multiple health beliefs

- Multiple economic approaches (liberal, capitalistic, socialist)
In Conclusion

- Always challenging
- Constantly evolving
- Every day holds a new experience