Integrating clinical and research training in child psychiatry: fifteen-year outcomes of a federally supported program

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Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Mental Health BMC

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Abstract

Background

The Albert J. Solnit Integrated Training Program (AJSP) is a training initiative designed to prepare physician-scientists for independent careers in the investigation and treatment of childhood psychiatric disorders.

Methods

We compared AJSP (n=30) and rank-matched participants in other residency programs (n=60) based on membership in the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) and certification by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN). We compared participants across three domains of research productivity: 1) Competitive awards received from AACAP; 2) Publication-related metrics derived from the National Library of Medicine (NLM); and 3) Federal grant funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Results

AJSP participants were more commonly affiliated with AACAP and board certified in CAP. AJSP graduates and trainees outperformed their control group peers in several research outcomes: 1) Receipt of AACAP awards and number of awards per recipient were higher, and time to first award shorter in the AJSP than in the control group; 2) AJSP participants had more publications in PubMed, more first-authored publications, a higher h-index, and a shorter time to first publication than participants in the control group; and 3) NIH K- or R-series funding success rate was higher among AJSP participants ($p < 0.05$ for all comparisons).

Conclusions

A program designed to support the development of clinician-scientists specifically dedicated to childhood mental health needs has been successful in fostering scientific creativity, productivity and independence. The expansion and replication of similar training initiatives will be an important step forward to address the high level of morbidity and mortality associated with child and adolescent psychiatric disorders.

Full Text

Due to technical limitations, full-text HTML conversion of this manuscript could not be completed. However, the manuscript can be downloaded and accessed as a PDF.

Figures

Figure 1

Years to first of three outcomes of interest between AJSP and control groups. Note: x axes denote time (in years); y axes denote fraction of subjects with outcome of interest, calculated as 1 - the survival function obtained though the Kaplan-Meier estimator. p values calculated with log rank (Mantel-Cox) tests for equality of survival distributions. * $p < 0.05$

*** $p < 0.001$