

**Employment survey of recent medical toxicology fellowship graduates**

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Background: There is limited information describing the experience of US-Medical Toxicology (TOX)-fellowship graduates. We sought to describe post-fellowship activities and patterns of compensation.

Methods: Contact information was obtained from the directors of the 26 ACGME-accredited TOX Fellowships for graduates 2011-2015. Graduates were asked to complete an online survey describing pre-fellowship experience (primary medical specialty, fellowship completion immediately following residency), reasons for fellowship training, board certification completion, nature of and percent of time engaged in TOX activities, nature of compensation for TOX activities, job satisfaction, and satisfaction with fellowship.

Results: 62 out of 122 graduates (51%) responded. Primary specialty included: Emergency Medicine (n=56), Internal Medicine (n=2), and Family Medicine (n=2). Twelve respondents did not enter fellowship immediately; average delay of 4.42 yrs post residency (range: 1-12). "General interest in the subject" (n=60); "learn something not taught in residency" (n=32); "felt that it would help with obtaining employment" (n=27), "hoped to get full-time job in geographic area of fellowship" (n=13), "didn't know what else to do after residency" (n=4) were reported. Forty-three out of 50 eligible graduates completed certification. TOX activities included: research (n=35); inpt consult (n=47); outpt consult (n=15); poison control center (n=31); and education (n=51). Forty-nine respondents were employed by academic institution, 12 by community group, and 3 full-time government service. Completion of fellowship was not a factor in negotiated salary for community physicians. Three graduates reported no current involvement with TOX, 51 reported  $\leq 50\%$  of time, and 8  $>50\%$ . Forty-eight reported compensation for TOX activities. Common forms were: "shift buydown" (n=22); "billed consults" (n=19); and "PCC on-call or per diem pay" (n=12). Eleven reported some form of stipend and 2 reported receiving hospital-based on-call pay. Job satisfaction was reported as: very satisfied (n=49); slightly satisfied (n=5); satisfied (n=5); slightly unsatisfied (n=2); very unsatisfied (n=1). Fellowship completion satisfaction was reported as: very satisfied (n=52); slightly satisfied (n=1), satisfied (n=8), slightly unsatisfied (n=1).

Results: The majority of graduates are engaged in TOX activities, are affiliated with an academic institution, and receive some form of compensation for TOX activities. Job satisfaction and satisfaction with completion of fellowship is generally positive.