Impact of International Medical Graduates in Academic Plastic Surgery

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Background
The proportion of international medical graduates (IMGs) in US has increased over the past fifty years in many specialties, but this has not been the case in plastic surgery. No study has ever characterized IMG faculty in plastic surgery, their long-term career prospects, and their contribution to academia.

Aim
To determine the prevalence, characteristics, and impact of IMGs who are faculty in US academic plastic surgery programs.

Methods
140 Independent and Integrated PRS programs identified on 2018 ACGME Listings
40 Duplicate programs removed
100 Independent and Integrated PRS programs screened for faculty
126 IMG = 796 USMG Academic Plastic Surgeons

Inclusion Criteria:
1. Plastic surgery faculty
2. Plastic surgery board certified

Results

IMG Prevalence in Academia

Number of Faculty in Employing Program

City Population of Practice

NIH Funding

H-index

Total Publications

Total Citations

IMG Among Academic Ranks and Leadership Positions

Proportion of IMG Faculty by Residency Graduation Year

Conclusion
IMGs are predominantly located in smaller programs, smaller cities, and in programs led by IMG chairs.

The contribution of IMGs to plastic surgery was evident as shown by their research productivity, academic ranks, and leadership positions.