How can a fellowship program be started in Europe?

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The Fellowship in Family Planning (FFP) is the only subspecialty training program in the United States focused on research and clinical skills in contraception and abortion.
Kenneth J. Ryan Residency Training Program in Abortion and Family Planning (1999)
90 Ryan Program Sites

Over 5000 residents trained
Fellowship in Family Planning Sites

30 Fellowship sites in 17 states, Washington, D.C. and Canada

06/2016
Graduates of our fellowship:

- Conduct and publish research
- Improve clinical care
- Advocate for safe abortion and contraception
- Create training mandates and standards
- Integrate family planning training
- Advise governments, NGOs, Pharma
Job Opportunities

• 57 open positions for “Family Planning Specialists”
  – 25 (44%) are with academic institutions
• Of the 110 Ryan Program directors, 64 are graduates of the Fellowship (58%)
• 18 PPFA medical directors are FFP graduates
Scientific Advancement

- Over 200 publications from the FFP community over the past year
- Research grants from NIH, NIDA, SFP, CDC, pharma industry, Gates Foundation, and local health departments
Culture Change
So what did we do?
Subspecialty Training in Obstetrics and Gynecology

- 127 accredited medical subspecialties in the US
- American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology Approved Fellowships
  - Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility
  - Maternal Fetal Medicine and Genetics
  - Gynecologic Oncology
  - Female Pelvic Medicine and Reproductive Surgery
Subspecialty Standards and Components

- General and special requirements
- Research requirement
- Standardized evaluation of existing sites every 1-3 years
- Formal applicant match (NRMP rules)
FFP Requirements and Guide to Learning

General Requirements

Guide to Learning
How our Fellowship goes beyond:

- General and special requirements
- Research requirement
- Standardized evaluation of existing sites every 1-3 years
- Formal applicant match (NRMP rules)
- Research training
- Requirement of MPH or MSc
- Publishable thesis
- Global Health rotation
- Advocacy training
- Workshops to address the emotional aspect of abortion work
- Creating a community of professional colleagues
Global Health Rotation

• In 2015-16, 19 fellows completed an international rotation spanning 13 countries
• 58% collaborated with academic institutions, 21% worked with a NGO, and 21% worked with the World Health Organization
Advocacy training
Psychosocial Workshop

Themes include:

– Stigma
– Safety and security
– Unsupportive colleagues
– Speaking about our work to family and friends
– The extent to which we place value on the fetus
– Emotional responses to serious complications
– Abortions that make us uncomfortable
Community of Professionals

The Fellowship Listserv serves as a forum for discussion of complex clinical questions.

Recent questions:

- IUD use in metastatic melanoma patient
- LNG-IUS in transgender patient on testosterone
- Copper IUD for patient receiving ECT
- Contraception in Porphyria, ITP, others
What are the most important ingredients for a successful fellowship?
Ingredients for a Successful Fellowship

• Vision
• Champions
• Funding
• A pipeline through our Ryan Residency Training Program which inspires potential fellowship applicants
Fellowship in Europe

In order to pursue a fellowship in Europe, we need:

• Agreement among professional leadership that a family planning fellowship is a worthwhile goal
• Academic champions
• Research training
• Clinical training opportunities in the teaching hospital
Questions to ask yourself:

• How are you preparing the next generation of leaders in the field?

• Who is engaging in:
  – Research?
  – Clinical training?
  – Setting standards and guidelines?
  – Advocacy?
Can a Fellowship help move beyond the status quo?
Thank you!

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Online course about abortion

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