

Pathology Fellowship Trends from 2015-2022: Less Interest and More Openings

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Pathology fellowships have become the norm in pathology, particularly since 2006 as pathology residency was switched from a 5-year to a 4-year residency. This switch occurred at a time with a relatively weak pathology job market and subsequent increase in demand for and competitiveness of fellowships was noted. However, the pathology job market has steadily improved over the past decade. Our aim was to determine if the improved pathology job market has corresponded to less interest in pathology fellowships.

Pathology fellowship postings and website page views of pathology fellowships posted at www.PathologyOutlines.com from 2015-2022 were reviewed and compared to jobs posted, job page views, and overall website page views.

2049 pathology fellowship ads were posted from 2015-2022. Ads posted for fellowships increased every year (2015, n=150; 2022, n=328), during which job ads more than tripled (2015, n=482; 2022, n=1522) (see Figures). Between 2015-2022, fellowship postings received 550,094 page views. Fellowship page views began decreasing in 2017 (n=74,496) and have decreased yearly through 2022 (n=51,597). The 35% decrease in pathology fellowship page views is in marked contrast to pathology job page views which have increased 23% (2015, n=505,183; 2022, n=619,330) and total website page views which have increased 259% (2015, n=12,587,362; 2022, n=45,164,115). Fellowship postings had the highest viewings in the 1st quarter (January-March) for all years except 2020 in which quarter 2 (April-June) and quarter 3 (July-September) had higher page views. The four subspecialties with the highest number of ads were surgical pathology, hematopathology, cytopathology, and transfusion medicine for all years.

From 2015-2022, there have been more pathology fellowship positions posted but less interest in the posted pathology fellowships. This change corresponds to a stronger job market, evidenced by triple the number of jobs posted during this same time period. Fellowship directors should be aware of the decreased demand for fellowships and have positions posted in the 1st quarter of the year to have the highest viewing.

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