Molecular pathology in the Polish residency: realities, problems and future perspectives

Magdalena Biskup-Fruzynska
I have no potential conflict of interest to disclose.
Specialisation programme in pathology – developed by:

- national consultant in pathology
- Polish Society of Pathologists
- The Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists
- Centre of Postgraduate Medical Education

Pathology specialisation programme – “modular” system (since 2nd half of 2014)

Basic module (3 years)

Second module (2 years)

Basic training

- Forensic medicine 2 weeks
- Oncological pathology 4 weeks

Courses:

- Introduction into specialisation in pathology 1 week
- Neuropathology 1 week
- Oncological histopathology – basic level 2 weeks
- Oncological histopathology – specialistic level 4 weeks
- Clinical cytology – basic level 1 week
- Clinical cytology – specialistic level 1 week
- Gynaecological cytology 3 weeks
- Haematopathology 1 week
- Emergency medicine 1 week
- Pathological diagnostics 4 weeks
- Pathological diagnostics – with impact on surgical pathology material

Molecular pathology training (MolPat) – no obligatory molecular pathology (MolPat) training
Reality

The required theoretical and practical knowledge of molecular diagnostics included in the specialisation programme:

„...biochemical basics of molecular diagnostic methods…”
„...basic applications…”
„...molecular basics of neoplastic processes…”
„...the use of molecular methods in the diagnostics of:
- non-Hodgkin lymphomas
- soft tissue sarcomas…”
„...ability to use special diagnostic techniques in cases of neoplasms in which they are necessary for detailed (...) definition of the type or subtype of the tumour…”
Reality

We do learn and practice MolPat though!

Options:
✓ trainings in molecular biology laboratories (by agreement of the heads of the departments)
✓ free courses held by Centre of Postgraduate Medical Education (8 days, theory and practice)
✓ conferences
✓ commercial courses
✓ on-line courses
...

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An online survey (Polish Society of Pathologists' site) - 47 responders (22 women, 25 men)

Year of specialisation training

- 32% 1
- 26% 2
- 10% 3
- 8% 4
- 8% 5/6
- 5% specialist

Reality
Reality

36% have completed MolPat training

Year of specialisation in which MolPat training was done

- 70%
- 77%: interpretation of the tests and incorporating them into the histopathological report;
- 53%
- 29%
- 59%: evaluation of the material (selection of paraffin block, estimation of cellularity and extent of necrosis) for molecular tests.
- 29%
- 6%
- 35%
Preferred year of specialisation to take MolPat training

- 51% chosen first year
- 18% chosen third year
- 39% do not know which form(s) of education to choose

Reality

Expectations: PRACTICE
Problem

13%: no intentions to participate in MolPat training

Reasons:
➢ 78% do not know about any education forms available in this field
➢ 22% do not feel the need for it
➢ 22% do not have time

NOT ENOUGH SUPPORT from senior colleagues
2/47: encouraged by their specialisation supervisor
7/47: encouraged by the head of the department
Future perspective

Last question in the survey:

„...the (specialisation) programme will be evaluated periodically and modified when needed considering the progress of medical knowledge and the necessity of constant advancement of the medical specialisation process – after consulting the national consultant, scientific societies, The Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists and Centre of Postgraduate Medical Education...”
Thank you for your attention.

Magdalena.Biskup-Fruzynska@io.gliwice.pl