Pathology residency in the Netherlands: realities, problems and future perspectives

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The Netherlands

- Population 17,336,891
- 126 hospitals, incl. 8 University Medical Centers
- ~435 clinical pathologists
- 99 pathology residents
- Dutch pathology trainee society “LPAV” (1 representative per UMC)
Residency structure

- 5 years
  - Up to 2 years in a non-university hospital
  - 6 months research
  - Modules of 3 months
- National education plan defines required knowledge per module
- Local variation
  - Shifts and budget for courses/congresses
  - Available expertise
- 4 compulsory courses
  - pathophysiology, oncology, molecular pathology, immunology
Resident evaluation

- No standardised testing
- Competence judged in daily practice
- Evaluation at start and finish of modules
- Yearly meetings with trainee supervisor
- Portfolios
  - Short practical assessments, critical appraisal of topic, CANMEDs
Challenges

• Time spent in university vs non-university hospitals
• Recent decrease in residents after health care budget cuts
• Number of residents and number of job openings
• Fewer autopsies
• Pathologist assistants
• Rise of molecular pathology and digital pathology
Future perspectives

• New national education plan in the making
  • More focus on individualising the residency
  • New module for molecular pathology
  • Supervision levels introduced
• More labs becoming fully digital
  • Research opportunities
  • Teaching opportunities
  • Facilitating inter-center consultation
Questions?