The Duke neurology advanced practice provider residency: Its time has come

Nitin K. Sethi, MD: I read with interest Morgenlander and Blessing's¹ experience with developing a 1-year neurology residency program for advanced practice providers (APPs), namely nurse practitioners (NPs) and physician assistants (PAs), in their institution. While I laud the authors in their effort and believe that APPs with formal training in neurology shall improve patient care, I disagree this is the way forward to address the growing shortage of neurologists. An APP with additional training in neurology is still an APP unable to independently diagnose and treat complex neurologic disorders with confidence. While APPs with additional training in neurology are a useful addition to the neurology workforce, they should not be a substitute for additional residency-trained neurologists. Congress needs to act now to alleviate this shortage. That should be the message we send out.

New York–Presbyterian Hospital.

Disclosures: N. Sethi serves as Associate Editor of *The Eastern Journal of Neurology*.

Authors Respond: Joel C. Morgenlander, MD; Robert Blessing, ACNP, DNP: We appreciate the comments by Dr. Sethi in response to our article about our APP Neurology residency.¹ Training APPs in neurology is one way to improve the manpower issues facing our specialty. This does not suggest that increasing the numbers of trained neurologists is not important, although the Neurology Match numbers would suggest the issue is in our recruitment of neurologists, as our Match did not fill. While we agree that Congress should act to improve the access to neurologic care, funding of the APP Neurology residencies as well as other specialty APP programs would be a wise contribution to improving medical access. If funding for these types of programs improved, we would see substantial numbers of APP providers obtain more specialized training. We believe many of our Neurology APPs would be capable of seeing new patients as well as returns, although they would have staff backup if needed.

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1. Morgenlander JC, Blessing R. The Duke neurology advanced practice provider residency. *Neurol Clin Pract* 2016;6:277–280.

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