Where Young Radiologists Choose to Practice:
Associations between Medical School, Residency, and Fellowship Sites and Future Practice Location
Matthew D. Nitz¹
Marc Benayoun¹
Stephanie Yeung²
Richard Duszak¹

¹Emory University Department of Radiology and Imaging Sciences, Atlanta, GA.
²HD Supply, Atlanta, GA.

The authors report no financial disclosures.
Purpose:

• To address projected local physician workforce shortages, many states have made substantial investments in pre-graduate medical education, disproportionate to investments in graduate medical education.

• The aim of this study was to assess the likelihood radiologists from one of the country's largest radiology training programs to practice in proximity to their medical school or graduate training locations.
Methods:

- Former radiology residents from a single institution (1985-2014) were catalogued from internal records.
- Medical school, fellowship, and current employment locations were obtained from those records and a variety of online sources (e.g., practice websites, medical boards, LinkedIn and other social media platforms).
- Locations were matched by state, and distances were calculated by converting ZIP codes to geographic coordinates.
- McNemar's test was performed for statistical comparison.
Results:

• Between 1985 and 2014, 336 radiologists completed residency training at this institution.

• Of these, 216 took fellowships at the same institution as residency, while 87 went elsewhere, and 33 did not pursue fellowship.
Results:

- These radiologists were more likely to practice in the same state as their residency (39%) or fellowship (43%) training sites, compared to that of medical school (36%, $p=0.34$ and $0.052$, respectively).
Results:

- To account for discrepant state land areas a geographic radius of 100 miles served as a cutoff for proximity.
- A similar percentage of radiologists were increasingly likely to practice close to their site of residency (38%) or fellowship (42%) locations, but a significantly lower number practiced in proximity to their medical school (25%, p=<0.0001).
Conclusions:

- For radiologists training in one of the country's largest residency programs, the site of graduate medical education more closely correlates with future practice location than medical school location.
- As states strive to recruit and retain physicians, focusing more resources on graduate medical education training program development may be appropriate.