

CAPER data allows for the tracking of fellowship participation in Canadian postgraduate training programs across time and specialties. Recent employment surveys of new certificants conducted by the Royal College indicate that many residents are pursuing fellowship training for the purpose of increasing their chances for employment<sup>1</sup>. Among the specialties experiencing employment challenges were cardiac surgery, otolaryngology, orthopedic surgery, radiation oncology, hematology and urology.

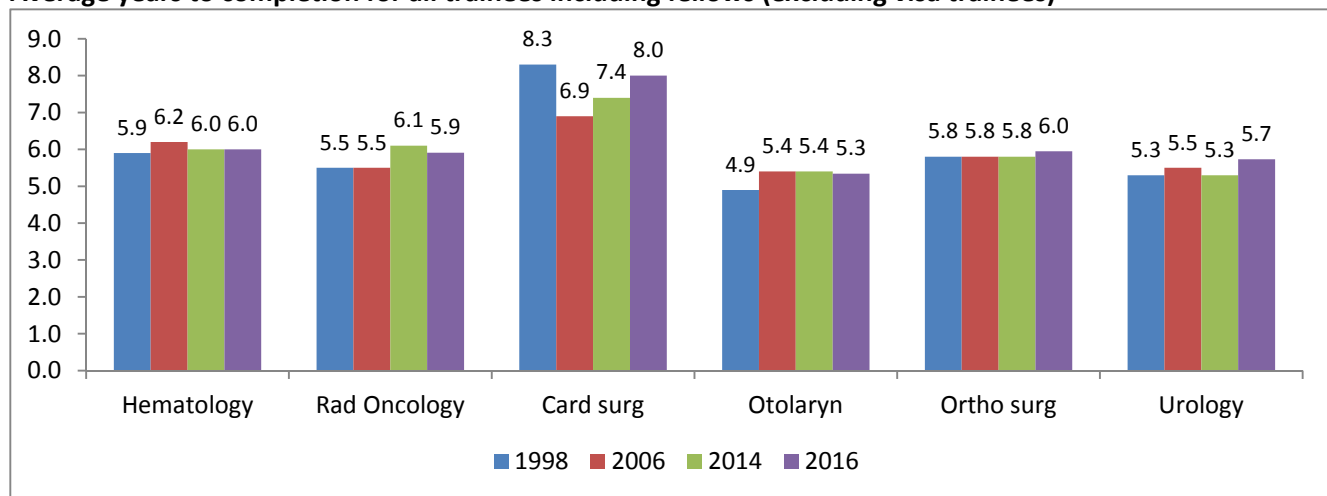
### Number of fellows in training (excluding visa trainees) and percent of all trainees in that specialty

Specialty	1998		2006		2014		2016	
	#	% all rank levels	#	% all rank levels	#	% all rank levels	#	% all rank levels
Hematology	10	25.6%	15	28.3%	15	19.2%	24	24.7%
Radiation oncology	11	13.9%	12	7.4%	11	8.3%	24	18.5%
Cardiac surgery	1	2.1%	4	7.3%	11	17.4%	10	13.7%
Otolaryngology	4	3.6%	6	5.0%	20	11.6%	11	6.6%
Orthopedic surgery	31	11.0%	35	10.8%	93	19.5%	83	19.9%
Urology	7	6.1%	18	13.7%	16	8.5%	25	12.9%

There have been significant increases in the number of fellows for all of the above specialties since 2006. The number of fellows as a percentage of all trainees in that specialty varies depending on the year. Radiation oncology, cardiac surgery, otolaryngology and orthopedic surgery all had a higher proportion doing a fellowship in 2016 compared to 2006.

Another possible indicator of increased participation in fellowship programs is an increase in the average time spent in postgraduate training before exiting for the first time (from year-one). Average time in training is the actual years in training, not a lag time between start and finish.

### Average years to completion for all trainees including fellows (excluding visa trainees)



Cardiac surgery, orthopedic surgery and urology all saw increases in average years to completion of training between 2006 and 2016.

<sup>1</sup> Presentation by Danielle Frechette at 2015 Royal College Physician Employment Summit. <http://tinyurl.com/ptk4abm>