

## Learning conditions in general and family medicine residents during the COVID-19 pandemic in Argentina

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**Introduction:** The number of actual postgraduate trainees in General and Family Medicine (GFM) in Argentina is 835 residents. COVID-19 pandemic dramatically modified the postgraduate learning conditions particularly for residents of GFM.

**Objective:** To explore the perceptions of residents of GMF in Argentina about training conditions in pandemic context

**Materials and Methods:** A descriptive, qualitative-quantitative study was carried out through an anonymous online questionnaire, with 17 closed option items and 25 Likert 1 to 5 scale options. Residents of all specialties were eligible. Only GFM results are reported in this poster.

**Results:** 99 residents of GFM responded (out of a total of 1595 total responses), 86.9% female, average age  $31.6 \pm 4.7$ , 70% lived in Buenos Aires Province and in the Capital City, and 81 % work in public institutions. 97% admitted tasks reorganization, and 49.7% referred to having assumed tasks that were not related to their training program. This proportion was above the mean of all surveyed (87% and 42.1% respectively).

The perception that residents took part in the organizational changes had a mean of  $2 \pm 1.1$ ), the adequate availability of supplies and personal protection was perceived with a mean agreement of  $3.6 \pm 1.3$ ). Agreement with the statements: "lectures were reduced" has a mean  $3.8 \pm 1.3$ ; "rotations were discontinued" mean  $4.6 \pm 1$ ; "increase use of virtual learning tools" a mean  $4 \pm 0.9$ . The agreement on "being supervised while performing a task" had a mean of  $2.5 \pm 1.2$ . Residents from private institutions had availability of PPE to a greater extent than those of public management ( $p = 0.02$ ).

Strengthening ties with own families were perceived as positive ( $> 2.5$ ) and the effects on health due to stress and social distancing as negative. The need to seek professional help to cope with stress had a mean of  $2,8 \pm 1.5$ .

**Conclusions:** The GFM residency training was affected by the pandemic and different aspects including organizational structure, learning, and personal health. Pivot learning and new strategies are recommended to mitigate the pandemic negative impact on training.. Specific measure regarding residents' wellbeing is needed to cope with pandemic- provoked stress and work overload.