



Census 2022 vs. 2024: Comparing and contrasting the needs of active urologists

In 2022, the CUA conducted its first census, with the intent to collect data on membership demographics and practice patterns and to better understand workforce and resource difficulties across the country.¹ Two years later, a followup census was undertaken to assess any significant shifts in trends and pinpoint new challenges in our field. Results of the latest census, along with comparisons to the 2022 iteration, have been published in this issue of *CUAJ*.² Below are some noteworthy statistics and the CUA initiatives being put in place to address relevant issues.

While demographic data did not change much from 2022 — including the fact that 72% of members complete fellowships, the exact same percentage as in 2022 — the motivation for pursuing fellowship has shifted. For residents graduating after 2010, a fellowship was seen as a necessity to secure employment.

Regarding practice patterns, as in 2022, 68% of CUA members surveyed indicated they work in a group practice. As such, the CUA has plans to invest in training group leaders in all areas of urology.

Almost half (46%) of members say they pursue research activity. With a large number of grants available across a variety of subspecialties, the CUASF is well-positioned to meet our members' research funding needs and continue to improve urologic health in Canada.

In terms of educational activities, 71% report that they focus up to eight hours a week on education. The CUA's Office of Education remains fully committed to supporting our members' educational needs with a plethora of options available on UROpedia, including MOC Section 3 offerings. Furthermore, CPD and community urology grants can provide funding toward educational objectives.

When asked about retirement, the mean retirement age reported by respondents was

64. Our association has almost 88 senior working urologists who may require some form of support on how to transition and what is needed for retirement savings. The CUA plans to develop webinars to support these members.

Participants noted that the most pressing issue currently facing practicing urologists in Canada is an inability to provide timely patient access to care. Further, two new questions not posed in 2022 were added to the 2024 census, namely focusing on members' feelings about how the CUA could better support their ability to care for their patients. Advocacy was cited most, particularly advocacy for better resources and standardization of care. With the recent publication of our surgical wait times document,³ we hope to address this issue. In fact, in May via a webinar and live in June, the CUA Advocacy Committee will host hands-on workshops for members to learn how to use this document to advocate for optimal patient care.

As a followup to our general census, we are also planning a resident-focused survey this spring that will provide insight into the demographic of this specific group, the type of training they are receiving, their work issues, etc.

Guided by our strategic plan for the next five years, and under the advocacy umbrella, the CUA is investing in these types of surveys to better meet the needs of our members, and ultimately our patients.

REFERENCES

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care for Canadians and
to advance the art and
science of urology.