

Expansion of Services to the Community: Implications for Department Viability, Cohesion, and Training

The Program Perspective

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**Some Issues Raised By A
Sampling of Trainees Across 5
Programs with Off-site Training**

Potential Benefits to Off-site Training

- Diversity of patient care experiences, faculty exposures and practice type exposures
 - “I enjoy the exposure to different patient populations, Attendings, Settings (Private vs Academic), and Practice styles.”



Potential Risks to Off-site Training

- Time Spent Traveling
 - “I feel like 1/4 of my work day is in the car.”
 - “It takes time to find parking at some sites.”
 - “Even when sites are close, they can take a long time to get to without a car, sometime over an hour each way.”
 - “Attendings are upset when we’re late.”

Potential Risks to Off-site Training

- Interference with time (and motivation) for independent study or research
 - “An hour spent driving or on public transportation is an hour not spent not reading and doing research.”

Potential Risks to Off-site Training

- Restricted ability to participate in department and hospital conferences
 - “residents should be able to attend interdisciplinary conferences at the main campus (i.e. Medicine GR or Noon conference, Plastics or ENT conferences; Pathology conferences; Allergy conferences, etc)”

Potential Risks to Off-site Training

- Costly to keep a car in the city
 - Parking fees (home and at work, sometimes at more than 1 site)
 - Insurance
 - Gas
 - Maintenance

Potential Risks to Off-site Training

- Safety concerns walking to and from car or public transportation.

Potential Risks to Off-site Training

- Isolation.
- “Its isolating”

Potential Risks to Off-site Training

- Given these factors, Trainees may perceive a heavier **service** obligation without a commensurate increase in **educational value** if the training experiences (patients, faculty, setting) across sites are already similar.
 - “off-site training should offer something different from the primary site. Otherwise, travel time, cost etc creates a burden for residents.”

The Opinion of 1 Program Director

- Programs should find creative approaches to support department goals as they evolve in a changing healthcare landscape.
- Consideration of location, accessibility, transit time, total # off-site locations, as well safety and cost to trainees.
- Gradual increase in off-site training facilities whenever feasible allows for acclimation to the new normal.
- Consideration to Faculty seeing patients without a resident in 1 or 2 clinics, even if have EMR.
- Training goals and the integrity of the training experience should remain intact.
- Service/Education balance is real (even in dermatology), and the RRC cares a lot about what our trainees perceive.
- Morale of trainees is important.