

# UNANTICIPATED IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON SURGICAL RESEARCH RESIDENTS



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## INTRODUCTION

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the experience of surgical research residents remains undetermined.

## METHODS

An anonymous web-based survey was distributed between 4/26/2020 and 5/3/2020 to all current general surgery research residents from four academic medical centers in Boston, MA. Interviews were also conducted with principal research investigators from participating institutions.

## RESULTS

A total of 40 of 63 research residents participated in our survey (63.5% response rate). Their most significant coronavirus-related concern was the interruption of research projects (3.77/5), followed by cancellations of scientific meetings (3.67/5), the inability to finish research projects before going back to clinical residency training (3.33/5), the negative impact of social distancing on their ability to conduct their research (3.33/5), decreases in the number of publications (3.13/5), financial difficulties due to the inability to moonlight (2.67/5), being asked to work on projects not related to their main area of research interest (2.64/5), and uncertainty about research funding (2.05/5). While most interviewed principal research investigators (85.7% [12/14]) did not report a decrease in their current research funding, all of them anticipate future funding difficulties given the current inability to generate the data necessary for new grant applications.

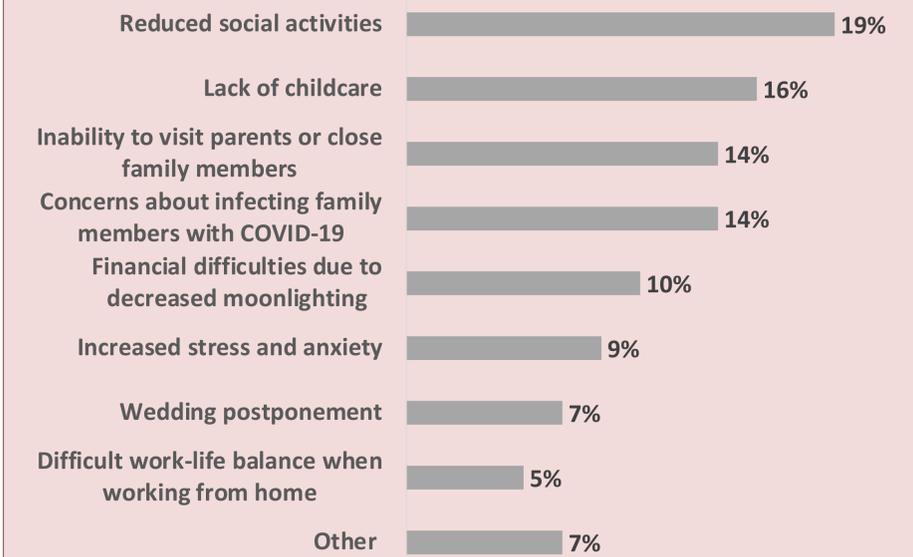
## CONCLUSION

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the research productivity and quality of life of general surgery research residents. Therefore, comprehensive interventions are needed to improve the experience of research residents during healthcare emergencies.

### Resident residents' concerns related to the COVID-19 impact on their research work



### Impact of COVID-19 on the personal/family life of research residents



### Changes implemented at respondents' research institutions as part of the COVID-19 response

