What is the role of mentoring in current medical education and how might it grow?

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Purpose

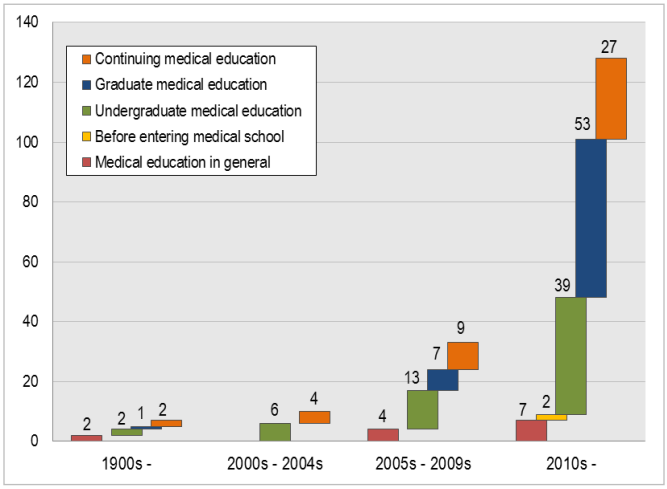
Mentoring contributes to personal and professional growth and development and is a core component of medical education and career success. It has thus come to be regarded as a valuable experience in medical education, and it has been implemented in a variety of programs. Our goal in this study was to review the existing body of research on mentoring to identify roles and trends in mentoring and to consider possible future directions of mentoring in medical education.

Methods

We searched PubMed for manuscripts using '(mentoring[Title/Abstract]) AND medical education[Title/Abstract]' published through December 2016. In order to observe overall trends, we did not restrict the search by type of literature. Out of 228 total publications, 192 were examined in this study. The publications were categorized by the number published each year, the country distribution of the first author, and mentoring subjects. PubMed uses "*" to mark the index word indicating the main thesis position or author purpose. We utilised MeSH keywords to identify subject trends across documents.

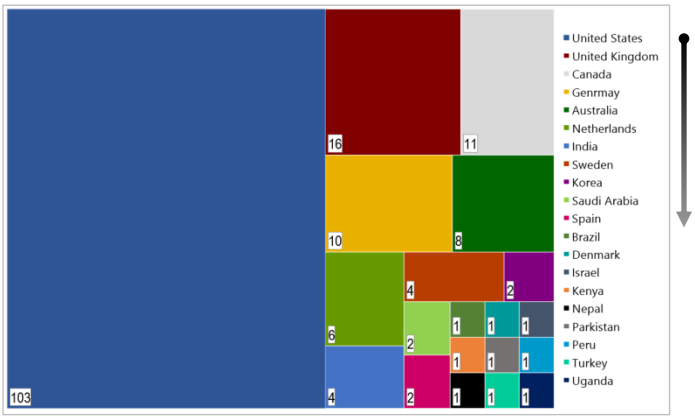
Results

1. Number of publications by year and subject



* Continuing medial education: include faculty, educator, advisor program, etc.

2. Number of publications by country



3. Cloud of MeSH keywords

Conclusion

The mentoring debate has grown dramatically since 2010 and is active in multiple countries. Of particular interest is mentoring programs for students enrolled in medical schools since 2010. This applies not only to undergraduate medical education,, but to the graduate medical education and continuing medical education sectors as well. As a result, those needing medical attention, such as medical school students, professors, and general physicians, have become more diverse. In fact, the clinical training and research capabilities of the clinical workforce are meaningfully affected. These experiences also influence career choice and career development post-graduation. Recently, a discussion was initiated on the development and support of mentoring programs as well as on mentoring techniques in order to improve mentoring efficacy. Also worth noting is that mentoring is being regarded as a key factor in the successful evaluation of medical education portfolios. This study highlights the direction of mentoring in the field of medical education.