The Section Residents Committee recently conducted a survey to evaluate regional residents’ and recently graduated regional residents’ educational preferences. Of the 64 individuals who completed the survey, 47 indicated they were current residents in the Mid-Atlantic Section, while 17 were recent residency program graduates. At least two respondents represented each program within the Mid-Atlantic states.

The chart below indicates how regional residents are generally educated. The three top surveyed educational methods are: day to day clinical applications, self studying, and SASP questions. These top three education methods are representative of self-learning, while the other five methods are more typical of didactic learning.

When asked how they would like/have liked to be taught (more blocked self learning time, more didactics, balanced combination of both, no change), residents and recently graduated residents responded as outline below.
The survey indicates a need for a healthy balance between self learning and didactic education. As chart #1 suggests that regional residents are educated mainly through self-education methods, one may propose the need for an increase in didactic learning processes and mentorship. For those who indicated they wished for more blocked self learning time, 82% noted they currently have 0 hours each week for self learning with 18% noting they had between 1 and 5 hours each week. When asked how many hours per week of blocked self learning time they desired, respondents indicated:

Desired number of hours/week:

Respondents noted the 5 most helpful methods for resident education are clinical applications, self study, Self-Assessment Study Program (SASP) questions, Lecture (interactive, Attending run, Faculty run, outside Campbell’s Urology), and Journal/daily reading/review articles, while the 5 most useful educational materials (ranked) are Campbell’s Urology, SASP questions, Wieder’s Pocket Guide to Urology, AUA review course and review materials, and the AUA Core Curriculum.

Graduates and senior level residents were asked to indicate specific methods or materials they found particularly useful through residency or for board preparation. The top 5 most useful methods or materials, according to the survey, are SASP questions, AUA Board review course/materials, Wieder’s Pocket Guide to Urology, Campbell’s Urology, and various city-based review courses. Other useful methods and materials mentioned include AUA educational review manuals, AUA updates/guidelines, Journals/repetitive reading, AUA Update Series, AUA Core Curriculum, and Urologic Surgical Pathology.

As the recently developed AUA Core Curriculum is used by some training programs, the Section Residents Committee was interested in determining what specifically was utilized. 59% noted use was resident directed while 41% noted the Core Curriculum was
Attending directed in their program. Respondents were also asked if they, as urology residents, are still doing a research year. 56% indicated no while 44% indicated yes.

In closing, the MAAUA Section Residents Committee thanks all those who participated in this survey. To show our appreciation, all participants were entered into a raffle to win a $25 iTunes gift card. I am happy to report that the winner is Dr. Matthew Sheldon.