General Surgery Residency
Italy vs COVID-19

1769 General Surgery Residents in 2018/2019
53% Women
400 Minimum operations required
5 Years of Training

THE RESIDENCY
- Formal didactics (lectures, seminars, surgical skills bootcamps)
- Clinical and surgical rotations (Anesthesiology, Vascular, Urology, etc.)
- Work duty: 38 hours / week (on paper), 60-80 hours /week (reality)
- Tutor certifies skills acquisition at the end of each rotation
- Oral exam at the end of each year
- Specialization acquired after final thesis dissertation + objectives completion

OBJECTIVES
1. **High complexity**
   - At least 50 surgeries: 10% as 1st operator, the rest as 2nd
2. **Medium complexity**
   - At least 100 surgeries: 25% as 1st operator, the rest as 2nd
3. **Low complexity**
   - At least 250 surgeries: 40% as 1st operator, the rest as 2nd

HOSPITAL RESPONSE
- Stopped all elective surgeries except oncologic
- Established checkpoints and Covid clear areas
- Staff training and reallocation
- Admitted 1st COVID-19

COVID-19 TIMELINE
- 1st confirmed cases (two)
  - Stop to flights from China
- National lockdown
  - All restaurants and bars are closed. Factories follow soon.
- 1st case in Lombardy
- Phase II
  - Italy reopens
- 01/31 02/20 03/09 05/18 2021

LOCAL CONSEQUENCES
- Elective surgical activity stopped
- Operating blocks converted to ICUs
- Colorectal cancer pts operated (Feb-Mar)

TRAINING
- Temporary stop to lectures
- Lectures converted to webinars
- Simulation center closed temporarily
- Residents still participating in surgeries

REFERENCES
1. MiUR Open Data, 2019
2. Obiettivi della Classe delle Chirurgie generali - MiUR
3. Carenzo et al Anaesthesia, Mar 2020

Thoughts from the pandemic
- Do not underestimate
- Timing is crucial
- No place for weak measures