



Dr. Albert L. Rhoton Jr. and His Lasting Impact on Neurosurgery

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Background

Professor Albert J. Rhoton Jr., MD, is renowned for his groundbreaking dissections, marking a monumental achievement in the field of neuroanatomy. Alongside his anatomical contributions, he also passed on his knowledge and skills to numerous anatomy fellows, leaving behind a profound legacy. Despite the widespread recognition of his influence, little quantitative work has been done to characterize the scholarly impact of his alumni.

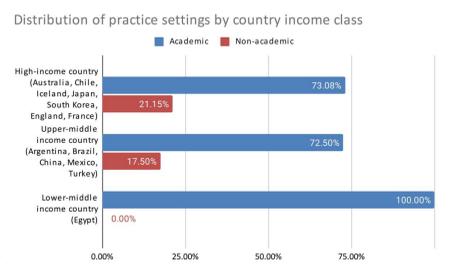
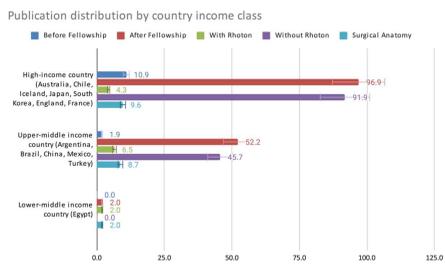
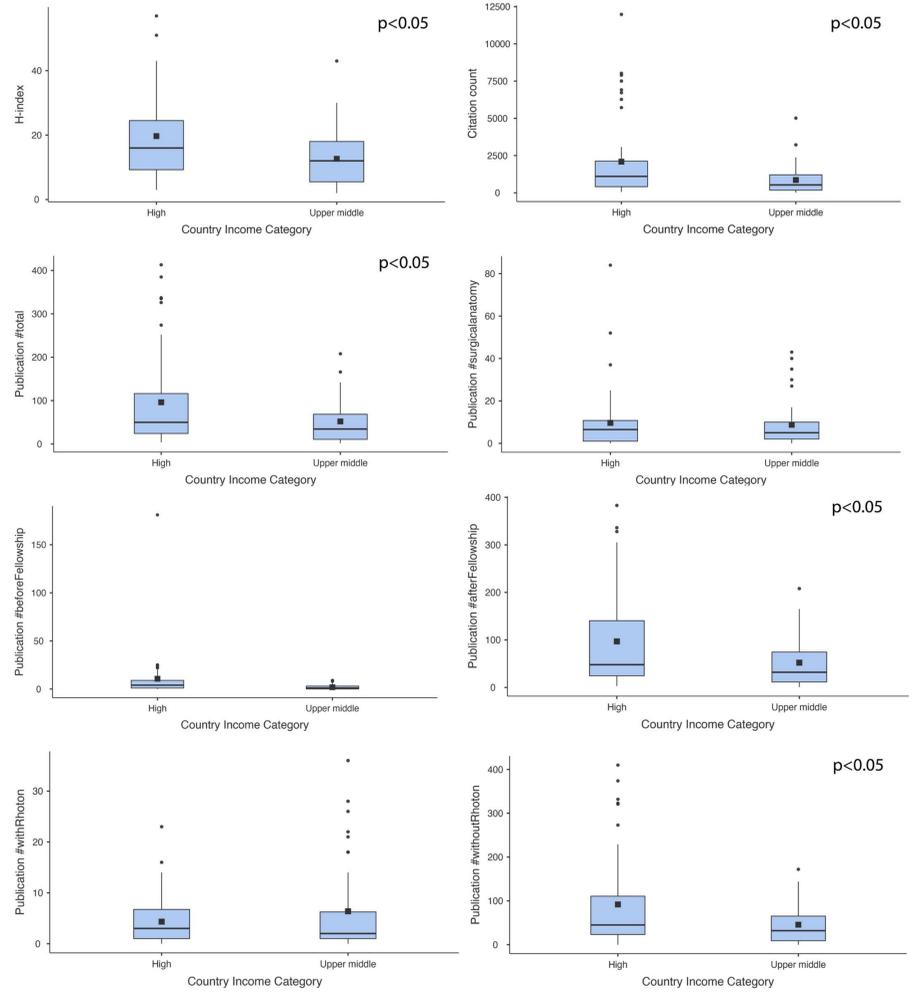
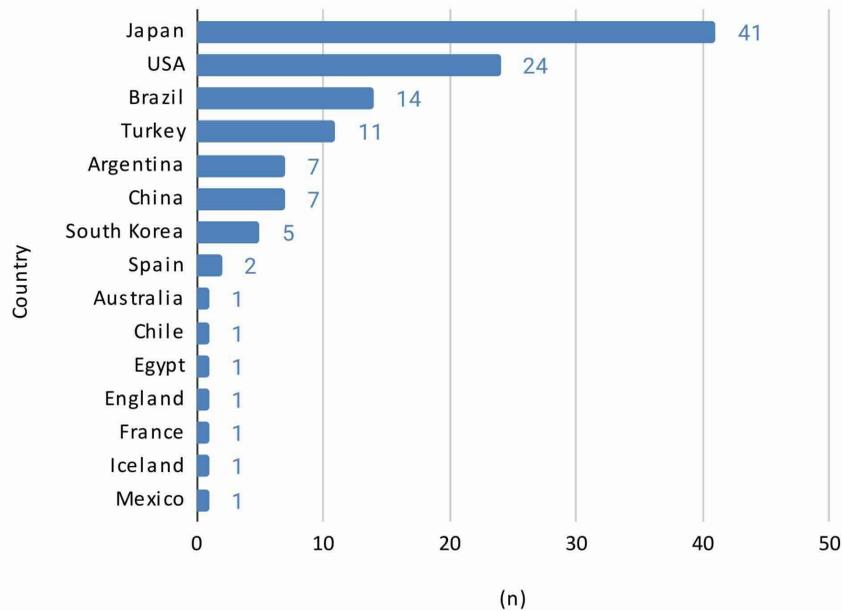
Methods

Data were collected on Rhoton fellows, including fellowship years, country of origin, current institutions, and titles, practice settings, and leadership roles. Scholarly productivity was evaluated by assessing total publication counts, including publications before and after the fellowship, and publications focused on surgical anatomy. Additionally, H-indices and citation counts were recorded. Other variables analyzed included ownership of a surgical anatomy lab, and participation in organizing hands-on courses.

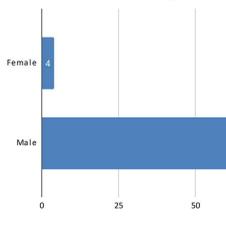
Results

We analyzed 118 alumni from diverse countries. Scholarly productivity significantly increased post-fellowship, with publications rising from a mean of 7 to 76 ($p < 0.001$). Fellows from high-income countries (HICs) had higher research productivity than those from upper-middle-income countries (UMICs), with greater mean H-index ($p = 0.003$), publication count ($p = 0.01$), and citation score ($p = 0.003$). Overall, 65% of fellows pursued academic practice, with 18% owning a lab and 30% involved in hands-on courses.

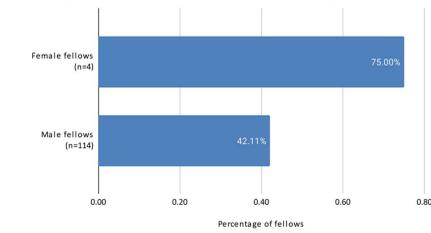
Geographic distribution of Rhoton fellows



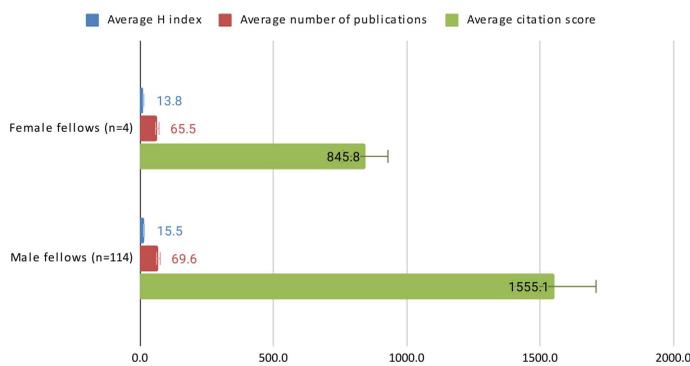
Gender distribution among fellows



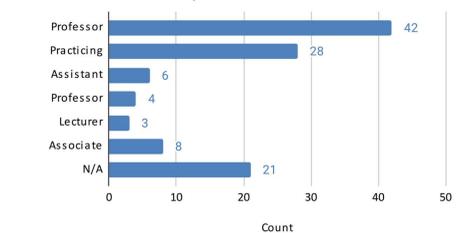
Percentage of fellows who hold leadership roles by gender



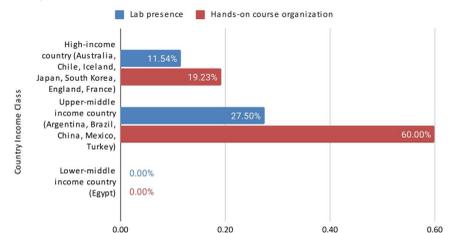
Average number of publications, H index and citation score by gender



Current titles held by fellows



Lab presence and Hands-on course



Conclusions

Dr. Rhoton's mentorship has shaped a generation of neurosurgeons who continue his legacy. His fellows have established careers worldwide, leading in academia, professional organizations, and surgical training. Their global impact underscores the lasting value of structured mentorship in neurosurgery.