APP Focus Group – Semi-Structured Facilitator's Interview Guide

1) Prior medical experience:
   a. Did anyone have a prior job in neurology prior to your current job? What was it like?
2) Onboarding experience:
   a. Describe your onboarding and training experience when you started your current job?
   b. When you started, did you receive too much or too little supervision?
   c. Any suggestions about how this could be improved?
3) Resources:
   a. What resources (online, text, colleagues, for example) did you find most useful when you were first growing accustomed to your current job?
   b. Do you find these existing resources appropriate and accessible for an APP?
   c. What opportunities exist for you in continuing medical education that are specifically tailored to APPs and focus on neurology?
   d. What resources would like to have? What resources do you feel are missing?
4) Clinical situations
   a. What clinical diagnoses were you most comfortable with when starting? Most uncomfortable?
   b. What components of your job were most difficult when starting?
      i. For example, performing the neurologic exam, reviewing imaging on rounds or for clinic patients, interpreting various results, communication with other providers, communication with patients, discussion with family, procedures
   c. What could have been done to make these difficult diagnoses easier to handle or these difficult tasks easier to get used to?
5) Neurology content
   a. Which areas of neurology do you wish you had more familiarity with?
6) Communication
   a. Tell us about your experiences communicating with physicians and other providers:
      i. In the hospital (inpatient)?
      ii. In the outpatient setting (clinic)?
   b. Have you ever felt that physicians talking on rounds or talking directly with you were speaking at a level you did not comprehend?
      i. If so, what specifically was difficult?
      ii. Have you ever experienced disrespectful communication?
   c. What do neurologists in this department assume APPs were taught during their training that they actually are not?
   d. Do you feel you have had any challenges in communicating with other providers (outside the department)?
      i. If so, why? Give specific examples.
   e. How might communication between APPs, physicians, and others in our department be improved?
7) Any other thoughts on improving the experience for APP onboarding and training that we haven't asked about? Any other questions or suggestions?