Careers in Medicine 101

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Disclaimer

You are NOT expected to choose a career today, tomorrow or this year
Getting Started on Career Selection

- Spend Time Reflecting on your talents
- Develop a List of Possible Interests
- Explore WIDELY
  - Avoid Confirmation Bias
- Study Hard and Do Well
  - Your patients need this from you
  - Your residency will be easier
  - You will have more options
Reflect: How Will You Serve?

Talents & Interests
Key Questions

• Where do I get my energy?
  – Thinking? Doing? Combo?
• How do I like to interact with people?
  – Longitudinally? Episodically?
• Do I have unique time pressures?
• What are my unique talents?
• What will my life outside of medicine look like?
  – How many hours do I expect to work?
  – What else will I be committed to?
Medicine today is Extraordinarily Flexible

Talents can be used in many different disciplines
Good at Relationships?
Interested in Wellness?
Primary Care

- Pediatrics
- Family Medicine
- Internal Medicine
--and—
- Alternative and Complementary Medicine
- Occupational Medicine
Like to Solve Puzzles?
Diagnostic and Therapeutic Dilemmas

- Internal Medicine
- Neurology
- Pathology
Like to use your Hands?

Good at Video Games?
Surgery

Open
Laparoscopic
Robotic
Endovascular Specialties

Neurosurgery
Neuroradiology
Peripheral Vascular Surgeon
Interventional Radiology

Interventional Cardiology
Endoscopic Specialties

Pulmonary Medicine

Urology

Gastroenterology
Interested in Electronics?
Neurology: EEGs
Cardiology: Electrophysiology
Good At Crises Mixed with Downtime?
Emergency Medicine

Anesthesiology

Over 50 years in Anesthesiology
Good at Pattern Recognition?
Dermatology

Radiology
Like Babies?
More of an Independent Soul?
Like Athletes?
Sports Medicine can be reached by...

- Orthopedics
- Physical Medicine
- Family Medicine
- Medicine-Pediatrics
Fascinated by the Mind?
Brain/ Mind related specialties

- Neurology
- Psychiatry
- Neurosurgery
- Sleep Medicine
  - Via Int. Med, Family Med, Neurology, Psychiatry
Tremendous Options: How do I practice?

• Patient Care: Private Practice, Group Practice
• Academic Medicine
  – Research, Education, Patient Care
• Policy/Public Health Work
  – CDC, WHO
• Regulatory Work
  – FDA, Medicare, Medicaid
• Business/Entrepreneurial Activities
  – Medical Devices, IT solutions
What about Time?

Remember,
a career spans 40 years
If you graduate in 2014, by…

• 2017 you can be:
  – General Internist, Hospitalist, Family Physician, Emergency Medicine Physician, Psychiatrist, Pediatrician

• 2018 you can be:
  – Pathologist, Emergency Medicine, PMR, Dermatologist, Neurologist, Psychiatrist, Radiologist, Rad Oncologist, Ophthalmologist, Anesthesiologist, Medicine-Pediatrics Specialist
  – Geriatrician, Sleep Physician, Palliative Care Physician, Critical Care Physician, Sports Medicine Physician
If you graduate in 2011, by...

• 2019 you can be
  – In IM or Peds: Endocrinologist, Infectious Disease Physician, Nephrologist, Oncologist, Hematologist, Rheumatologist
  – General Surgeon, Neurosurgeon, Orthopedic Surgeon, Urologist, Otolaryngologist,

• 2020 you can be
  – General Cardiologist, Pulmonary/Critical Care, Hematology/Oncology

• 2021 you can be
  – Interventional Cardiologist, Electrophysiologist
What about Lifestyle?
What about lifestyle?

• In general, physicians who do procedures get paid more than physicians who primarily problem solve (cognitive specialties) but all are paid well.

• Salaries can range from $100,000 (primary care specialties) to $1,000,000 (private neurosurgery)

• Academic physicians (educators and researchers) tend to make less than those in private practice but may have more predictable schedules and intangible benefits.
What about lifestyle?

- Any career in medicine can be adjusted/adapted to fit your lifestyle
  - Part time work and employment rather than private practice
  - Academic Careers
  - Administrative Careers

- In general, most physicians work 60-5 hours/week
What about lifestyle?

• Overnight call/work still exists, particularly for those who deal with emergencies
  – Surgery, Interventional Cardiology

• Others use Shift Work to manage night time requirements
  – Hospital Medicine, Emergency Med, Anesthesiology, Critical Care
Read Books

• Internal Medicine
  – My Own Country by Abraham Verghese, MD
  – The Discovery of Insulin by Michael Bliss
  – On Call: A Doctor’s Days and Nights in Residency by Elizabeth Transue, MD

• Family Medicine/Internal Medicine
  – The Doctor’s Stories by William Carlos Williams

• Surgery
  – Confessions of a Knife by Richard Selzer, MD (or anything by him…)
  – Complications: A Surgeon’s Notes on an Imperfect Science by Atul Gawande, MD

• Pediatrics
  – A Not Entirely Benign Procedure by Perri Klass
  – I Am Having an Adventure by Perri Klass
  – Other Women’s Children by Perri Klass

• Neurosurgery
  – Another Day in the Frontal Lobe by Katrina Firlik, MD
  – Walking out on the Boys by Frances Conley, MD

• Neurology
  – The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat by Oliver Sacks, MD
  – Phantoms in the Brain by VS Ramachandran