UK Medical Careers Research Group

1993 cohort of UK Medical Graduates

Report of Fourth Survey

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UK Medical Careers Research Group University of Oxford, Old Road Campus,

Headington, Oxford OX3 7LF Telephone: 01865 289378/4 Fax: 01865 289379

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Introduction

This report describes the results of the fifth survey of the cohort of 3671 doctors who qualified from UK medical schools in 1993. The 1993 cohort has been surveyed previously on three occasions, in 1994, 1996, and 1999. The first mailing for this survey was completed in November 2002, and late replies were received up to October 2003.

This report describes the main results from the fourth survey, focusing on the current employment of the respondents, their career choices and the milestones in their careers. It also contains some information about their views and attitudes and future intentions. It is not intended as an analytical report and does not seek to relate data from this cohort to that obtained from other cohorts.

We expect this report to be of interest to medical workforce planners, policymakers, researchers and others with an interest in medical careers.

Cohort size and response to survey

The cohort comprises 3671 doctors (1953 men, 1718 women). Excluding from the denominator 175 for whom no current address could be found, 10 who had never registered, 14 who had declined to participate, and 12 who had died, the response to the fourth survey was 70.5% (2439/3460). For men the response rate was 65.4% (1200/1834), and for women 76.0% (1239/1626).

Demographics

The median age of respondents at the 31st September 2002 was 33.3 years (men 33.4, women 33.1 years). 82.3% of respondents were living with a spouse or partner (men 84.6%, women 80.1%), and 17.7% were single/widowed/divorced/separated (men 15.4%, women 19.9%). Overall, 57.0% of respondents had children under 16 years of age (men 58.8%, women 55.3%); 3.9% of both men and women had dependent adults living with them.

Current post

Of those who gave details about their current post, 81.6% (1990/2439) were in medicine in the UK NHS (men 80.3%, 964/1200; women 82.8%, 1026/1239), 4.6% were practising medicine abroad (men 5.1%, women 4.1%), and 6.3% were working in medical posts in UK Universities (men 7.8%, women 4.9%). 6.3% were Hospital Consultants (Men 7.3%, Women 5.2%), 42.3% were Specialist Registrars, and 20.7% had achieved GP Principal posts. *Tables 1-3* give a more detailed breakdown of the occupation group, grade and specialty group of respondents' current posts at the time of the survey.

UK Respondents were asked if their contract was full-time. 72.4% (1663/2298) of those who could and did respond said "yes" (1080/1152 men and 583/1146 women). 13.1% of respondents who responded to the question (133/1018) indicated that their post was "locum" (47/431 men and 48/587 women).

			Sex		Total
			Male	Female	
Occupation	UK Medical, fully NHS	Count	964	1026	1990
group - current post	funded	% within Sex	80.3%	82.8%	81.6%
current post	UK Medical Universities	Count	93	61	154
		% within Sex	7.8%	4.9%	6.3%
	HM Forces	Count	24	11	35
		% within Sex	2.0%	.9%	1.4%
	UK Other Public Sector	Count	9	9	18
		% within Sex	.8%	.7%	.7%
	UK Medical Private Sector	Count	23	23	46
		% within Sex	1.9%	1.9%	1.9%
	UK Non-Medical	Count	2	4	6
		% within Sex	.2%	.3%	.2%
	UK Not in Paid	Count	10	24	34
	Employment	% within Sex	.8%	1.9%	1.4%
	Abroad Medical	Count	61	51	112
		% within Sex	5.1%	4.1%	4.6%
	Abroad Non-Medical	Count	1	1	2
		% within Sex	.1%	.1%	.1%
	Abroad Not in Paid	Count	0	3	3
	Employment	% within Sex	.0%	.2%	.1%
	Unknown	Count	13	26	39
		% within Sex	1.1%	2.1%	1.6%
Total		Count	1200	1239	2439

Table 1: Occupation Group – Current Post

			Se	Sex	
			Male	Female	
Streamline	Hosp. Consultant	Count	88	65	153
of Current Grade		% within Sex	7.3%	5.2%	6.3%
Grade	Hosp. SHO	Count	23	21	44
		% within Sex	1.9%	1.7%	1.8%
	Hosp. Other	Count	37	65	102
		% within Sex	3.1%	5.2%	4.2%
	Specialist Registrar	Count	601	431	1032
		% within Sex	50.1%	34.8%	42.3%
	Community Health	Count	0	7	7
		% within Sex	.0%	.6%	.3%
	GP Principal	Count	238	266	504
		% within Sex	19.8%	21.5%	20.7%
	GP Registrar	Count	11	29	40
		% within Sex	.9%	2.3%	1.6%
	GP Assistant	Count	9	30	39
		% within Sex	.8%	2.4%	1.6%
	GP Locum	Count	22	46	68
		% within Sex	1.8%	3.7%	2.8%
	GP Retainer Scheme	Count	0	70	70
		% within Sex	.0%	5.6%	2.9%
	Univ. Lecturer	Count	19	13	32
		% within Sex	1.6%	1.0%	1.3%
	University Research	Count	47	35	82
		% within Sex	3.9%	2.8%	3.4%
	Public Sector	Count	4	5	9
		% within Sex	.3%	.4%	.4%
	Other-Med no grd	Count	26	30	56
		% within Sex	2.2%	2.4%	2.3%
	Other-Medical related	Count	16	14	30
		% within Sex	1.3%	1.1%	1.2%
	Other-Non-med	Count	3	0	3
		% within Sex	.3%	.0%	.1%
	Unknown	Count	56	112	168
		% within Sex	4.7%	9.0%	6.9%
Total		Count	1200	1239	2439

Table 2: Grade – Current Post.

			Sex Male Female		Total
Current	Medical Specs.	Count	223	170	393
Mainstream SpecialtyYear		% within Sex	18.6%	13.7%	16.1%
09	Paediatrics	Count	51	65	116
		% within Sex	4.3%	5.2%	4.8%
	Accident & Emergency	Count	38	31	69
		% within Sex	3.2%	2.5%	2.8%
	General surgery	Count	39	8	47
		% within Sex	3.3%	.6%	1.9%
	Other Surgical Specialty	Count	187	49	236
		% within Sex	15.6%	4.0%	9.7%
	Obstetrics & Gynaec.	Count	30	47	77
		% within Sex	2.5%	3.8%	3.2%
	Anaesthetics	Count	125	77	202
		% within Sex	10.4%	6.2%	8.3%
	Radiology	Count	32	27	59
		% within Sex	2.7%	2.2%	2.4%
	Clinical Oncology	Count	15	32	47
		% within Sex	1.3%	2.6%	1.9%
	Pathology	Count	25	32	57
		% within Sex	2.1%	2.6%	2.3%
	Psychiatry	Count	55	69	124
		% within Sex	4.6%	5.6%	5.1%
	General Practice	Count	312	497	809
		% within Sex	26.0%	40.1%	33.2%
	Community Medicine	Count	2	32	34
		% within Sex	.2%	2.6%	1.4%
	Public Health Medicine	Count	7	15	22
		% within Sex	.6%	1.2%	.9%
	Other Medical Spec.	Count	27	13	40
		% within Sex	2.3%	1.0%	1.6%
	Two or more specialties	Count	4	13	17
		% within Sex	.3%	1.0%	.7%
	Non-Medical	Count	6	9	15
		% within Sex	.5%	.7%	.6%
	Not in Paid Employment	Count	10	28	38
		% within Sex	.8%	2.3%	1.6%
	Unknown	Count	12	25	37
		% within Sex	1.0%	2.0%	1.5%
Total		Count	1200	1239	2439

Table 3: Specialty Group - Current Post

Satisfaction with current job

To obtain a measure of job satisfaction five statements were presented for evaluation by respondents, on a scale from *strongly agree* to *strongly disagree*. The statements were

I find enjoyment in my current post I am doing interesting and challenging work I feel dissatisfied in my current post Most days I am enthusiastic about my work I am often bored with my work

Scores of 1 to 5 were assigned to the responses (with scales reversed for the 1st, 2nd and 4th statements) and an overall job satisfaction score calculated. The median job satisfaction score for both men and women was 20, indicating a high degree of job satisfaction.

Satisfaction with time for family and leisure

Respondents were asked to express, on a scale from 1 to 10, their satisfaction with the amount of time their work left them for family, social and recreational activities. The median score for satisfaction with time for leisure was 6.

Career Plans

Respondents were asked if they intended to practise medicine in the UK for the foreseeable future, apart from temporary visits abroad. 54.9% (1340/2439) responded "Yes, definitely" (53.3% of men, 56.6% of women), 31.0% responded "Yes, probably" (32.4% men, 29.7% women), 6.1% were "Undecided", and 7.4% said either "Probably not" or "Definitely not". 14 respondents did not answer this question (11 men, 3 women).

Those who indicated that they were "working in medicine in the UK" were asked if they intended to continue to do so for the foreseeable future. 69.1% (1430/2070) of respondents said "Yes, definitely", 24.7% said "Yes, probably", 3.3% were "Undecided", and 2.9% responded "Probably not" or "Definitely Not". Those who did not respond "Yes, Definitely" (639/2070) were asked what they were considering to do instead. 337 said they were "Considering practising medicine abroad", 212 said they were considering "Leaving medicine but remaining in the UK", and 33 said they were considering "Leaving medicine and the UK".

Those who indicated that they were "working in medicine abroad" were asked if they planned to return to UK medicine. 20% (29/145) responded "Yes, definitely", 17.2% said "Yes, probably", 18.6% were "Undecided", 26.9% said "Probably not" and 15.2% said "Definitely not".

Those who indicated that they were either "working outside medicine" or "not in paid employment" were asked if they planned to return to UK medicine. 12.6% (12/95) said "Yes, definitely", 22.1% said "Yes, probably", 17.9% were undecided, 20% said "Probably not" and a further 20% said "Definitely not".

Career milestones

Respondents who were working in medicine were asked to give details of the milestones in their career. 80% of those GPs who had reached GP Principal status had done so by 8 years 1 month, and 80% of hospital doctors who had reached Consultant status had done so by 9 years 7 months. On average, men were negligibly faster than women for both statuses (by 1 or 2 months). Of those who worked continuously in the NHS (43.5% of all respondents), 80% of GPs who had reached GP Principal status had done so by 7 years 2 months and 80% of hospital doctors who had reached Consultant status had done so by 9 years 6 months. Of those who had always worked full time (65.1% of all respondents), 80% of GPs had reached GP Principal status by 7 years 10 months, and 80% of full-time hospital doctors had reached Consultant status by 9 years 6 months.

Final choice of long-term career

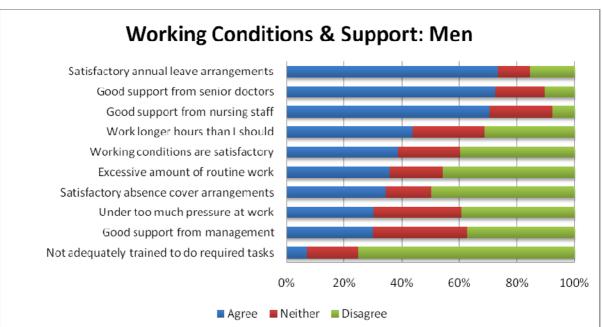
When asked whether respondents viewed their current specialty as their final choice of career, 72.8% responded 'definitely' (78.2% of men, 67.6% of women), 21.9% responded 'probably', 3.9% responded "not really", and 1.4% gave no response. Table 4 gives details of mainstream of 1st choice of long-term career specialty by sex. It should be noted that 7.9% of respondents indicated that their 1st and 2nd choices were "of equal preference".

			Se	Sex	
			Male	Male Female	
First choice	Medical Specs.	Count	231	165	396
mainstream		% within Sex	19.3%	13.3%	16.2%
Year 09	Paediatrics	Count	49	62	111
		% within Sex	4.1%	5.0%	4.6%
	Accident & Emergency	Count	43	29	72
		% within Sex	3.6%	2.3%	3.0%
	General surgery	Count	23	5	28
		% within Sex	1.9%	.4%	1.1%
	Other Surgical Specialty	Count	201	57	258
		% within Sex	16.8%	4.6%	10.6%
	Obstetrics & Gynaec.	Count	28	46	74
		% within Sex	2.3%	3.7%	3.0%
	Anaesthetics	Count	126	77	203
		% within Sex	10.5%	6.2%	8.3%
	Radiology	Count	32	29	61
		% within Sex	2.7%	2.3%	2.5%
	Clinical Oncology	Count	19	32	51
		% within Sex	1.6%	2.6%	2.1%
	Pathology	Count	22	33	55
		% within Sex	1.8%	2.7%	2.3%
	Psychiatry	Count	52	76	128
		% within Sex	4.3%	6.1%	5.2%
	General Practice	Count	313	528	841
		% within Sex	26.1%	42.6%	34.5%
	Community Medicine	Count	2	28	30
		% within Sex	.2%	2.3%	1.2%
	Public Health Medicine	Count	7	16	23
		% within Sex	.6%	1.3%	.9%
	Other Medical Spec.	Count	23	23	46
		% within Sex	1.9%	1.9%	1.9%
	Two or more specialties	Count	1	0	1
		% within Sex	.1%	.0%	.0%
	Non-Medical	Count	15	19	34
		% within Sex	1.3%	1.5%	1.4%
	Not in Paid Employment	Count	1	3	4
		% within Sex	.1%	.2%	.2%
	Unknown	Count	12	11	23
		% within Sex	1.0%	.9%	.9%
Total		Count	1200	1239	2439
		% within Sex	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 4: Mainstream of first choice specialty

Working conditions and support

Respondents were invited to respond to a number of attitude statements assessing their views on their working conditions and level of support received. Responses were received on a 5-point scale from *strongly agree* to *strongly disagree*. For ease of presentation (Figure 3), the categories *strongly agree* and *agree*, and *strongly disagree* and *disagree* have been combined. The attitude statements appear in full on page 4 of the questionnaire (Appendix 1). Women were a little more positive than men about working conditions; otherwise men's and women's responses did not differ greatly. Most responses concerning working conditions and support were reasonably positive. However, fewer than half felt that working conditions on the job (e.g. provision for accommodation, food etc) were satisfactory, and around 40% thought they worked longer hours than they should.



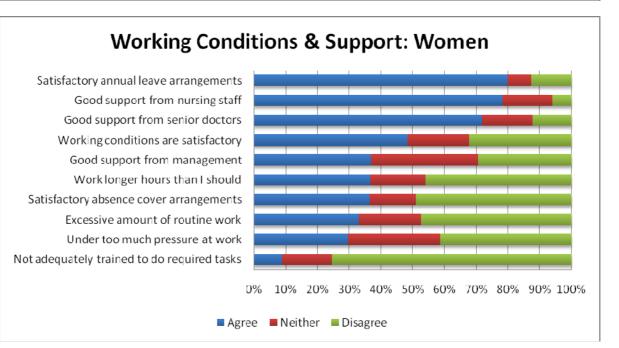


Figure 1: Working Conditions and Support

Career opportunities and Specialist Registrars.

Doctors were asked about their career prospects and opportunities. Figure 2 shows the results for men and women. The attitude statements appear in full on page 4 of the questionnaire (Appendix 1). There was general positivity regarding career prospects, although only 50% were satisfied with the standard of postgraduate training received. Those in Specialist Registrar (SpR) posts were asked about the adequacy of the length of their training, and about securing a consultant post: a sizeable percentage were concerned about securing a consultant post within 6 months of completing their CCST.

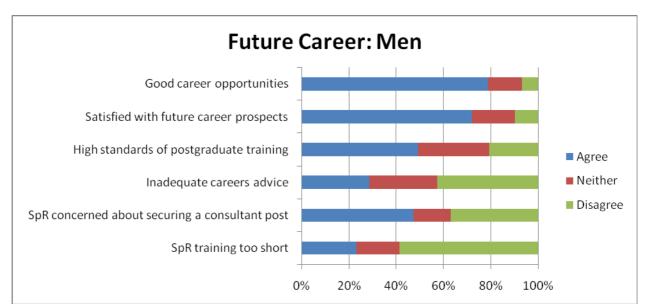
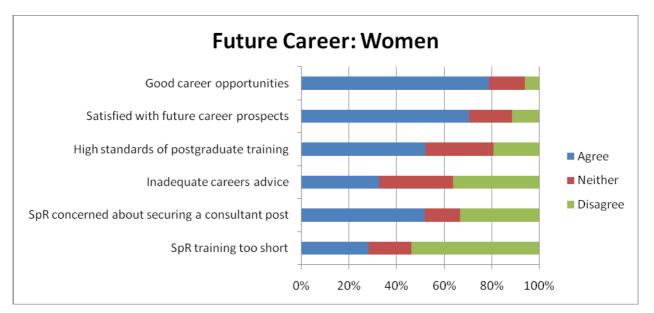


Figure 2: Future Career



The NHS and equal opportunities.

Doctors were asked about equal opportunities within the NHS. Figure 3 shows the results for men and women. The attitude statements appear in full on page 4 of the questionnaire (Appendix 1). More women than men felt that remuneration for contractual hours was fair, and neither men nor women felt that overtime hours were fairly remunerated. There was little disagreement with regards to equal opportunities for gay and lesbian doctors, but a large percentage felt unqualified to decide. Men tended to feel less fairly treated by the NHS than women. Women tended to feel that part-time doctors were not given equal opportunities. Very few doctors felt that those with disabilities or doctors with family responsibilities had equal opportunities.

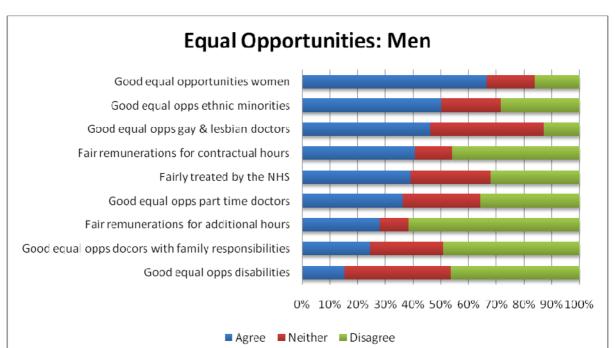
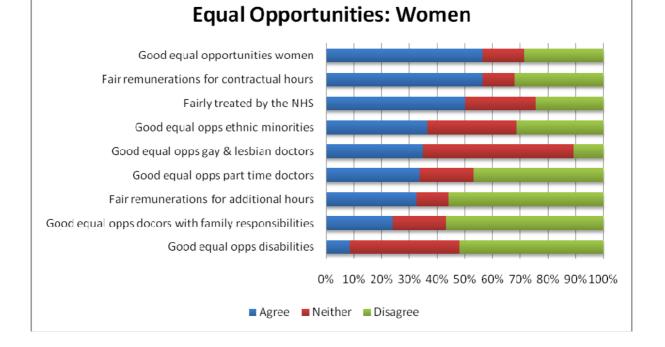


Figure 3: The NHS and Equal Opportunities



Appendix 1. 2002 Survey Questionnaire to 1993 cohort

UK Medical Careers Research Group, University of Oxford 2002 Survey of the Career Preferences and Experiences of Doctors Qualifying in 1993

Please write as clearly as possible in the boxes. Please put a cross in the box of your choice : \triangleright OR print numbers : 3 99 Your career choices 1. Have you made up your mind about your choice of long-term career? Definitely Probably Not really 2. What is your choice of long-term career? Please list up to 3 choices in order of preference. Please give your choice of specialty or subspecialty. Be as specific as you wish. Where choices are of equal preference, please cross the boxes adjacent to those choices, otherwise leave blank. Of equal preference? 1 2 3 Your career plans 3. Apart from temporary visits abroad, do you intend to practise medicine in the United Kingdom for the foreseeable future? Yes-definitely Yes-probably Undecided No-probably not No-definitely not If you did not answer 'Yes-definitely', are you considering practising medicine leaving medicine but leaving medicine and abroad remaining in the UK leaving the UK If you did <u>not</u> answer 'Yes-definitely', what changes to medicine in the UK would increase your commitment to it (or encourage you to return if you have left)?

4.	Do you plan to work in a career po	ost on a less-than-full-time_b			
	at some point in your career?	Yes	No	Undecided	

	Your current post
5.	Please give details of your current post.
	Starting date: (enter as digits)
	Specialty:
	(enter medical specialty/subspecialty; type of work (if non-medical); if not employed, enter travel / career break / domestic responsibilities / illness etc as appropriate.
	Grade: (if non-medical leave blank)
	Location: (<i>county if in the UK, or the country if abroad</i>)
	Employer NHS-substantive NHS-honorary UK University HM Forces
	/ contract: Retainer Scheme UK Private Sector UK Public sector
	(please cross as many as apply) (not NHS/University)
	In this post, are you (a) full-time? Yes No (b) a locum? Yes No
6.	How satisfied are you with your current post? (for each statement, please cross one box) Strongly Agree Neither Disagree Strongly
	Strongly Agree Neither Disagree Strongly agree agree disagree nor
	I find enjoyment in my current post.
	I am doing interesting and challenging work.
	I feel dissatisfied in my current post.
	Most days I am enthusiastic about my work.
	I am often bored with my work.
7.	How satisfied are you with the amount of time your work leaves you for family, social and recreational
	activities? (please cross the box next to the number which most accurately reflects your opinion)
	Not at all satisfied Extremely satisfied
	Your personal circumstances
8.	single living with a spouse or a partner
9.	. How many children under 16 are normally resident in your household?
	If there are children, what are their ages in years?
	(Enter 0 for 0-11 months)
10.	

needs could affect your ability to pursue your chosen career?

Milestones in your career
11. If you have reached any of these (NHS) career milestones, please give the date first reached (and the specialty where relevant). (enter month and year as digits)
First appointed as a M M Y Y specialist registrar: / Specialty:
consultant:
GP registrar:
GP principal: /
12. Since qualifying as a doctor, have you worked continuously in the NHS? Yes No* (excluding any periods of less than 3 months) *If No, please give brief details (dates, locations, specialties, reasons e.g. maternity leave, travel, family care) for time outside the NHS :
13. Since qualifying as a doctor, have you always worked full-time ? Yes No* *If No, please give approximate dates for periods of part-time working:
Your views
In this section, please consider each statement and mark with X the response which most accurately reflects your own opinion.
For all statements SA =Strongly agree, A =Agree, N =Neither agree nor disagree, D =disagree, SD =Strongly disagree, N/O =No opinion.
14. Your future career SA A N D SD N/O
I have had good career opportunities in my career to date
I am satisfied with my future career prospects
The postgraduate training I have received so far has been of a high standard
Making career choices has been made difficult by inadequate careers advice
(Specialist registrars only) My training is too short to enable me to practise
adequately when I first become a consultant (Specialist registrars only) I am concerned about securing a consultant post

For all statements SA=Strongly agree, A=Agree, N=Neither agree nor disagree, D=disagree, SD=Strongly disagree, N/O=No opinion.

15. Working conditions and support

In my current post		SA	Α	Ν	D	SD	N/O
	I work longer hours than I think I should						
Arrang	gements for my annual leave are satisfactory						
Arrangements	for cover for absent doctors are satisfactory						
	I receive good support from senior doctors						
	I receive good support from nursing staff						
I receive good s	support from hospital / practice management						
The working conditions	(e.g. food, accommodation) are satisfactory						
I am curre	ntly under too much pressure whilst at work						
· ·	sive amount of routine work which could be						
	done by staff without medical qualifications ical tasks for which I do not feel adequately trained						
16. Equal opportunities							-
The NHS is a good equal opp	ortunities employer for	SA	А	Ν	D	SD	N/O
0 1 11	women doctors						
	doctors from ethnic minorities						
	doctors with disabilities						
	gay and lesbian doctors						
	doctors with family responsibilities						
	doctors who work less than full time						
The NHS remunerates me	fairly for my basic contracted hours of work						
The NHS remun	erates me fairly for additional hours worked						
In general, I feel that I am	fairly treated by the NHS in my current job						
	Your current e-mail address						

(We may send you future surveys, and occasional newsletters, via email)

Additional Comments

Please give us **comments** on **any aspect** of your training, career choices or work. Use continuation sheets if you wish. We summarise the views of respondents and report on them to policy-makers and in publications, in ways intended to ensure that individuals cannot be identified. **Your individual comments will remain confidential** to researchers in the UK Medical Careers Research Group.

Thank you for your co-operation. Please return this questionnaire to: UK Medical Careers Research Group,