

UK Medical Careers Research Group

1999 cohort of UK Medical Graduates

Report of Second Survey

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Summary

- The UK Medical Careers Research Group has surveyed doctors who qualified in the UK in 1999 twice – in 2000 and in 2002. This report describes the findings from the 2002 survey.
- Mailing began in May 2002. A response rate of 60.7% (2551/4200) was achieved.
- The doctors' median age was 27 years at the time of the survey, over half were single and almost a half were living with a spouse or partner, 90% had no children, and a fifth were non-white.
- In September 2001, 86.8% of the respondents were working in the UK NHS / University sector. In all, 2.5% of respondents were not in paid employment either in the UK or abroad.
- In September 2001, 31.2% of respondents in the UK NHS / University sector were working in the hospital medical specialties and 19.6% in the surgical specialties (including general surgery). Only 2.9% were working in general practice at this stage. Differences by sex were most notable in the percentages working in surgery, paediatrics, psychiatry and obstetrics and gynaecology.
- Almost all respondents in the UK NHS (98.3%) were working full-time in September 2001, although 18.9% (30.2% of women, 4.1% of men) expressed an intention to undertake part or all of their training part-time, and 33.9% planned to work part-time at some point in their career post (50.4% of women, 12.3% of men).
- In 2001, over 95% of NHS respondents were senior house officers, 2.2% were in GP registrar posts and under 1% had begun specialist training.
- The respondents, three years after graduation, were reasonably sure of their long-term career choice, with 84.4% describing their career choice as a 'definite' or 'probable' choice (38.3% definite). There was little difference between men and women in the certainty of their choice.
- At this stage of SHO rotations there were substantially more choices for general practice than the numbers currently working in it, and substantially fewer choices for the hospital medical specialties than the numbers currently working in them. A higher percentage of those choosing psychiatry, general practice, obstetrics and gynaecology, pathology, paediatrics and the surgical specialties were definite about their choice, compared with other specialties.
- A large majority (79.2%) of respondents definitely or probably intended to practise medicine in the UK for the foreseeable future. There was no appreciable difference by sex. Of those not definitely intending to practise in the UK, 83.4% were considering medicine abroad.
- Job enjoyment and job satisfaction were rated more highly than the level of satisfaction felt by respondents with the amount of time their work left them for family, social and leisure activities.

Introduction

This report describes the results of the second survey of the cohort of 4221 doctors who qualified from UK medical schools in 1999. The first baseline survey of the 1999 qualifiers was carried out during the PRHO year in 2000. This second survey finds the cohort members in their third postgraduate year. Most are in senior house officer posts; a small percentage have begun GP training. The first mailing for this survey was completed in April 2002, and late replies were received up to May 2003.

This report describes the main results from the second survey, focusing on the current employment, career choices and demographics of the respondents. It also contains some information about job satisfaction and future intentions. It is not intended as an analytical report and does not seek to relate data from this cohort with that obtained from other cohorts.

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

Methods

The study population comprised all doctors who qualified in medicine in the UK in 1999. Subjects were originally identified in early 2000 using medical school graduation lists provided by the General Medical Council (GMC). Both graduates in the summer of 2000 and the smaller numbers who qualified in the spring of 2001 were included, to ensure that the cohort comprised a complete year of medical school intake.

For this survey we mailed the entire cohort of qualifiers, whether or not they had replied to our earlier survey. Only the small numbers who qualified in 1999 but had never registered with the GMC, or were known to be deceased, or who had indicated in the previous survey that they wished to remain non-participants were excluded. After an initial mailing, up to three reminder mailings were sent to non-responders.

The questionnaire used is reproduced at the end of this report. Career choices and posts undertaken were grouped into mainstream specialties based on those initially defined in the Todd Report. A complete list of specialties included in each broad group is reproduced as an appendix.

Response

Table 1 shows the final response. Excluding those deceased and non-participants the response rate was 60.7% (2551/4200). Among women it was 66.2% (1445/2183) and among men it was 54.8% (1106/2017).

Table 1: Response rate

	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female		Count	Col %
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %		
No reply	911	44.9%	738	33.7%	1649	39.1%
Replied	1106	54.5%	1445	66.0%	2551	60.4%
Deceased	1	.0%	1	.0%	2	.0%
Not participating	12	.6%	7	.3%	19	.5%
Total	2030	100.0%	2191	100.0%	4221	100.0%

Demographics

Age

The 3103 respondents whose date of birth was known had a median age of 27 years at the end of September 2002. 72.5% were aged 27 or less (34.3% age 27, 34.9% age 26, 3.3% age 25) and 95.3% were 31 or less. The oldest respondent was aged 46 years.

Marital status

52.1% of the respondents were single, and 46.8% were living with a spouse or partner (Table 2). These proportions did not differ significantly for men and women.

Table 2: Marital status of respondents in 2002

	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female		Count	Col %
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %		
Living with spouse/partner	496	44.8%	698	48.3%	1194	46.8%
Single	599	54.2%	731	50.6%	1330	52.1%
Widowed/Divorced/Separated	7	.6%	8	.6%	15	.6%
Not given	4	.4%	8	.6%	12	.5%
Total	1106	100.0%	1445	100.0%	2551	100.0%

Children and adult dependants

87.7% of respondents did not have children; the percentage was similar for men and women (Table 3).

Table 3: Numbers of children of respondents in 2002

	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female		Count	Col %
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %		
0	955	86.3%	1283	88.8%	2238	87.7%
1	49	4.4%	51	3.5%	100	3.9%
2	20	1.8%	16	1.1%	36	1.4%
3	3	.3%	2	.1%	5	.2%
4	1	.1%	1	.1%	2	.1%
Not given	78	7.1%	92	6.4%	170	6.7%
Total	1106	100.0%	1445	100.0%	2551	100.0%

Of the 143 respondents with children, 99 had a youngest child under two years of age, and 118 had a youngest child who was pre-school (i.e. under 5 years of age).

Respondents were asked if they had adult dependants who might affect their ability to pursue their chosen career; 79 did so (3.1% of respondents), (Table 4).

Table 4: Respondents with dependent adults in 2002

	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female		Count	Col %
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %		
Yes	34	3.1%	45	3.1%	79	3.1%
No	1041	94.1%	1368	94.7%	2409	94.4%
Not given	31	2.8%	32	2.2%	63	2.5%
Total	1106	100.0%	1445	100.0%	2551	100.0%

Ethnicity

Concerns that an ethnicity question might have a low completion rate were not realised as the non-response rate was only 1.4%. Non-white respondents comprised 22.4%, with Indians being the largest component, followed by Chinese, Other, and Asian - Other (Table 5). 184 (5.9%) respondents were overseas students.

Table 5: Ethnic origin of respondents

	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female		Count	Col %
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %		
White	720	72.5%	1073	79.1%	1793	76.3%
Indian	89	9.0%	92	6.8%	181	7.7%
Pakistani	27	2.7%	22	1.6%	49	2.1%
Bangladeshi	11	1.1%	14	1.0%	25	1.1%
Chinese	49	4.9%	47	3.5%	96	4.1%
Asian - other	27	2.7%	36	2.7%	63	2.7%
Black Caribbean	3	.3%	2	.1%	5	.2%
Black African	8	.8%	15	1.1%	23	1.0%
Black - other			2	.1%	2	.1%
Other	35	3.5%	36	2.7%	71	3.0%
Mixed	6	.6%	3	.2%	9	.4%
Blank	18	1.8%	15	1.1%	33	1.4%
Total	993	100.0%	1357	100.0%	2350	100.0%

Career choices in 2002

These respondents, three years after graduation, were reasonably sure of their long-term career choice, with 84.4% describing their career choice as a ‘definite’ or ‘probable’ choice (Table 6).

Table 6: Firmness of career choice in 2002

	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female		Count	Col %
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %		
Definitely	431	39.1%	541	37.7%	972	38.3%
Probably	522	47.4%	648	45.1%	1170	46.1%
Not really	148	13.4%	247	17.2%	395	15.6%
Total	1101	100.0%	1436	100.0%	2537	100.0%

Tables 6a - 6c show the first, second and third choices of career expressed by the respondents, with choices grouped into mainstream specialties. During this period of SHO rotations it is not surprising to find that there were substantially more choices for general practice than the numbers currently working in that specialty, and considerably fewer choices for the hospital medical specialties than the numbers currently working in those specialties (Tables 15 and 16).

Table 6a: First choices of long term career in 2002

	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female		Count	Col %
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %		
Medical Specs.	184	16.6%	247	17.1%	431	16.9%
Paediatrics	36	3.3%	110	7.6%	146	5.7%
Accident & Emergency	50	4.5%	73	5.1%	123	4.8%
General surgery	65	5.9%	28	1.9%	93	3.6%
Other Surgical Specialty	259	23.4%	105	7.3%	364	14.3%
Obstetrics & Gynaec.	6	.5%	38	2.6%	44	1.7%
Anaesthetics	125	11.3%	100	6.9%	225	8.8%
Radiology	33	3.0%	33	2.3%	66	2.6%
Clinical Oncology	19	1.7%	41	2.8%	60	2.4%
Pathology	24	2.2%	30	2.1%	54	2.1%
Psychiatry	48	4.3%	77	5.3%	125	4.9%
General Practice	211	19.1%	511	35.4%	722	28.3%
Community Medicine	2	.2%	4	.3%	6	.2%
Public Health Medicine	6	.5%	7	.5%	13	.5%
Other Medical Spec.	11	1.0%	12	.8%	23	.9%
Two or more specialties	2	.2%			2	.1%
Non-Medical	15	1.4%	12	.8%	27	1.1%
Unknown	10	.9%	17	1.2%	27	1.1%
Total	1106	100.0%	1445	100.0%	2551	100.0%

Table 6b: Second choices of long term career in 2002

	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female		Count	Col %
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %		
Medical Specs.	154	13.9%	209	14.5%	363	14.2%
Paediatrics	17	1.5%	37	2.6%	54	2.1%
Accident & Emergency	55	5.0%	60	4.2%	115	4.5%
General surgery	37	3.3%	15	1.0%	52	2.0%
Other Surgical Specialty	153	13.8%	37	2.6%	190	7.4%
Obstetrics & Gynaec.	2	.2%	15	1.0%	17	.7%
Anaesthetics	58	5.2%	51	3.5%	109	4.3%
Radiology	31	2.8%	21	1.5%	52	2.0%
Clinical Oncology	8	.7%	18	1.2%	26	1.0%
Pathology	15	1.4%	26	1.8%	41	1.6%
Psychiatry	18	1.6%	54	3.7%	72	2.8%
General Practice	64	5.8%	134	9.3%	198	7.8%
Community Medicine			26	1.8%	26	1.0%
Public Health Medicine	8	.7%	14	1.0%	22	.9%
Other Medical Spec.	16	1.4%	22	1.5%	38	1.5%
Two or more specialties	1	.1%			1	.0%
Non-Medical	16	1.4%	13	.9%	29	1.1%
Unknown	453	41.0%	693	48.0%	1146	44.9%
Total	1106	100.0%	1445	100.0%	2551	100.0%

Table 6c: Third choices of long term career in 2002

	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female		Count	Col %
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %		
Medical Specs.	84	7.6%	79	5.5%	163	6.4%
Paediatrics	6	.5%	12	.8%	18	.7%
Accident & Emergency	21	1.9%	18	1.2%	39	1.5%
General surgery	26	2.4%	3	.2%	29	1.1%
Other Surgical Specialty	60	5.4%	13	.9%	73	2.9%
Obstetrics & Gynaec.			5	.3%	5	.2%
Anaesthetics	26	2.4%	21	1.5%	47	1.8%
Radiology	13	1.2%	14	1.0%	27	1.1%
Clinical Oncology	1	.1%	4	.3%	5	.2%
Pathology	5	.5%	10	.7%	15	.6%
Psychiatry	4	.4%	11	.8%	15	.6%
General Practice	45	4.1%	83	5.7%	128	5.0%
Community Medicine			8	.6%	8	.3%
Public Health Medicine	6	.5%	2	.1%	8	.3%
Other Medical Spec.	6	.5%	12	.8%	18	.7%
Non-Medical	16	1.4%	18	1.2%	34	1.3%
Not in Paid Employment			1	.1%	1	.0%
Unknown	787	71.2%	1131	78.3%	1918	75.2%
Total	1106	100.0%	1445	100.0%	2551	100.0%

Table 7 shows the percentages of those choosing each mainstream specialty who were expressing a definite, probable or uncertain choice. There was considerable variation by specialty.

Table 7: Percentages of those choosing each mainstream as their first choice of long term career, whose choice was definite, probable or not really certain in 2002

	Firmness of career choice						Total	
	Definitely		Probably		Not really		Count	Row %
	Count	Row %	Count	Row %	Count	Row %		
Medical Specs.	78	18.2%	218	50.9%	132	30.8%	428	100%
Paediatrics	63	43.2%	72	49.3%	11	7.5%	146	100%
Accident & Emergency	30	24.4%	63	51.2%	30	24.4%	123	100%
General surgery	32	34.4%	44	47.3%	17	18.3%	93	100%
Other Surgical Specialty	151	41.6%	178	49.0%	34	9.4%	363	100%
Obstetrics & Gynaec.	22	50.0%	19	43.2%	3	6.8%	44	100%
Anaesthetics	84	37.5%	114	50.9%	26	11.6%	224	100%
Radiology	18	27.7%	36	55.4%	11	16.9%	65	100%
Clinical Oncology	14	23.3%	30	50.0%	16	26.7%	60	100%
Pathology	25	47.2%	18	34.0%	10	18.9%	53	100%
Psychiatry	66	52.8%	54	43.2%	5	4.0%	125	100%
General Practice	372	52.0%	290	40.5%	54	7.5%	716	100%
Community Medicine			6	100%			6	100%
Public Health Medicine	1	7.7%	6	46.2%	6	46.2%	13	100%
Other Medical Spec.	6	26.1%	10	43.5%	7	30.4%	23	100%
Two or more specialties			1	50.0%	1	50.0%	2	100%
Non-Medical	7	25.9%	10	37.0%	10	37.0%	27	100%
Unknown	3	11.5%	1	3.8%	22	84.6%	26	100%
Total	972	38.3%	1170	46.1%	395	15.6%	2537	100%

87.5% of first choices were untied (Table 8).

Table 8: Tied choices (Year 02)

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No ties	2232	87.5	87.5	87.5
1st+2nd choices tied	209	8.2	8.2	95.7
2nd&3rd choices tied	35	1.4	1.4	97.1
All 3 choices tied	75	2.9	2.9	100.0
Total	2551	100.0	100.0	

Intentions to practise in the United Kingdom

A large majority (79.2%) of respondents definitely or probably intended to practise medicine in the UK for the foreseeable future (Table 9); 11.4% were undecided and 9.2% definitely or probably did not intend to do so. There was no appreciable difference by sex.

Table 9: Intentions of respondents to practise medicine in the UK for the foreseeable future

	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female		Count	Col %
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %		
Yes-definitely	388	35.1%	545	37.7%	933	36.6%
Yes-probably	490	44.3%	597	41.3%	1087	42.6%
Undecided	133	12.0%	157	10.9%	290	11.4%
No-probably not	63	5.7%	102	7.1%	165	6.5%
No-definitely not	27	2.4%	41	2.8%	68	2.7%
Not given	5	.5%	3	.2%	8	.3%
Total	1106	100.0%	1445	100.0%	2551	100.0%

Table 10 shows the alternative intentions expressed by those who did not definitely intend to practise in the UK. 83.4% of respondents would consider practising medicine abroad, 13.1% leaving medicine but remaining in the UK, and 3.5% leaving medicine and the UK.

Table 10: Percentages of respondents considering different alternatives to UK medicine

	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female		Count	Col %
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %		
Practising medicine abroad	577	85.0%	703	82.1%	1280	83.4%
Leaving medicine, remaining in UK	73	10.8%	128	15.0%	201	13.1%
Leaving medicine and UK	29	4.3%	25	2.9%	54	3.5%
Total	679	100.0%	856	100.0%	1535	100.0%

Part time training and work

Table 11 shows the intentions of respondents to undertake all or part of their future training on a part time basis. 482 (18.9%) intended to do so. Most of these were women, of whom 30.2% intended to follow part time training.

Table 11: Respondents' plans to undertake all or part of future training on part time basis

	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female		Count	Col %
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %		
Yes	45	4.1%	437	30.2%	482	18.9%
No	925	83.6%	566	39.2%	1491	58.4%
Undecided	126	11.4%	433	30.0%	559	21.9%
Not given	10	.9%	9	.6%	19	.7%
Total	1106	100.0%	1445	100.0%	2551	100.0%

The percentage of respondents who planned to work part time at some point in their future career post was 33.9% (men 12.3%, women 50.4%), (Table 12).

Table 12: Respondents' plans to work part time at some point in career post

	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female		Count	Col %
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %		
Yes	136	12.3%	729	50.4%	865	33.9%
No	773	69.9%	251	17.4%	1024	40.1%
Undecided	183	16.5%	451	31.2%	634	24.9%
Not given	14	1.3%	14	1.0%	28	1.1%
Total	1106	100.0%	1445	100.0%	2551	100.0%

Current employment in 2001

Occupation group

Table 13 gives a breakdown of the main posts held by respondents at the end of September 2001, three years after qualification. As in previous surveys the posts have been summarised in occupation groups whose descriptions should be largely self-explanatory. The distinction between UK University and NHS posts has been made on the basis of the grade of the post as described to us by the respondents. Posts described in academic terms have been assigned to the 'UK Medical Universities' group. However these posts may carry honorary contracts and involve NHS service work.

Respondents who did not give details of their employment in September 2001 have been excluded from the table.

Overall 86.8% of respondents (86.4% of men, 87.1% of women) were working in the NHS/University sector. Occupation groups for men and women were very similar.

Table 13: Occupation groups of respondents in September 2001

	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female		Count	Col %
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %		
UK Medical, fully NHS funded	833	84.7%	1127	86.1%	1960	85.5%
UK Medical Universities	17	1.7%	13	1.0%	30	1.3%
HM Forces	23	2.3%	6	.5%	29	1.3%
UK Other Public Sector	1	.1%	2	.2%	3	.1%
UK Medical Private Sector	3	.3%	1	.1%	4	.2%
UK Non-Medical	11	1.1%	3	.2%	14	.6%
UK Not in Paid Employment	12	1.2%	38	2.9%	50	2.2%
Abroad Medical	82	8.3%	114	8.7%	196	8.6%
Abroad Not in Paid Employment	1	.1%	5	.4%	6	.3%
Total	983	100.0%	1309	100.0%	2292	100.0%

Grades

Table 14 shows the breakdown by grade of those respondents who were working in the NHS/University sector in September 2001.

The vast majority of respondents (95.5% of the total) were senior house officers; registrars in general practice comprised 2.2% at this stage in time. Only a few had begun their specialist registrar training (0.8%).

Table 14: Grades of respondents working in the NHS and UK Universities in September 2001

	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female		Count	Col %
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %		
Hosp. Staff Grd.	1	.1%	2	.2%	3	.2%
Hosp. SHO	819	96.4%	1078	94.6%	1897	95.3%
Hosp. SHO 3			3	.3%	3	.2%
Hosp. Pract.			1	.1%	1	.1%
Hosp. Clin. Ass.	1	.1%	1	.1%	2	.1%
Hosp Cln Med Off			1	.1%	1	.1%
Specialist Registrar	4	.5%	11	1.0%	15	.8%
Hosp. Clinical Fellow	1	.1%			1	.1%
GP Registrar	11	1.3%	33	2.9%	44	2.2%
Univ. Lecturer	1	.1%	2	.2%	3	.2%
Univ. Dem/Asst	7	.8%	4	.4%	11	.6%
Univ. Other Res	1	.1%			1	.1%
Univ. Res Reg	1	.1%			1	.1%
Univ. Res Fellow	2	.2%			2	.1%
Other-Med no grd	1	.1%	3	.3%	4	.2%
Not Applicable			1	.1%	1	.1%
Total	850	100.0%	1140	100.0%	1990	100.0%

Specialties

Three years after qualification a large majority of doctors were working in SHO posts. Table 15 shows the breakdown by mainstream specialty grouping of the respondents who were working in the NHS/University sector in September 2001. The largest percentage (31.2%) was working in the hospital medical specialties, followed by the surgical specialties including general surgery (19.6%), paediatrics (12.8%), accident and emergency (8.3%), psychiatry (7.9%) and obstetrics and gynaecology (7.0%). Differences by sex were most notable in the percentages working in surgery, paediatrics, psychiatry and obstetrics and gynaecology.

Table 15: Mainstream specialties of respondents working in the NHS and UK Universities in September 2001

	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female		Count	Col %
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %		
Medical Specs.	259	30.5%	361	31.7%	620	31.2%
Paediatrics	71	8.4%	184	16.2%	255	12.8%
Accident & Emergency	73	8.6%	92	8.1%	165	8.3%
General surgery	70	8.2%	41	3.6%	111	5.6%
Other Surgical Specialty	191	22.5%	87	7.6%	278	14.0%
Obstetrics & Gynaec.	36	4.2%	103	9.1%	139	7.0%
Anaesthetics	40	4.7%	43	3.8%	83	4.2%
Radiology	2	.2%			2	.1%
Clinical Oncology	7	.8%	13	1.1%	20	1.0%
Pathology	14	1.6%	23	2.0%	37	1.9%
Psychiatry	46	5.4%	111	9.8%	157	7.9%
General Practice	15	1.8%	43	3.8%	58	2.9%
Community Medicine	1	.1%	8	.7%	9	.5%
Public Health Medicine			1	.1%	1	.1%
Other Medical Spec.	14	1.6%	8	.7%	22	1.1%
Two or more specialties	11	1.3%	20	1.8%	31	1.6%
Total	850	100.0%	1138	100.0%	1988	100.0%

Table 16 shows the same breakdown by mainstream specialty for the 191 doctors working abroad. In comparison with respondents working in the UK, there was a far higher percentage in accident and emergency medicine, possibly resulting from a recruitment drive. There were smaller percentages than in the UK in the hospital medical specialties and in surgical posts.

Table 16: Mainstream specialties of respondents working in medicine abroad in September 2001

	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female		Count	Col %
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %		
Medical Specs.	14	17.9%	32	28.3%	46	24.1%
Paediatrics			1	.9%	1	.5%
Accident & Emergency	27	34.6%	34	30.1%	61	31.9%
General surgery	5	6.4%	2	1.8%	7	3.7%
Other Surgical Specialty	7	9.0%	5	4.4%	12	6.3%
Obstetrics & Gynaec.	3	3.8%	6	5.3%	9	4.7%
Anaesthetics	5	6.4%	2	1.8%	7	3.7%
Clinical Oncology			1	.9%	1	.5%
Pathology	1	1.3%	1	.9%	2	1.0%
Psychiatry	3	3.8%	4	3.5%	7	3.7%
General Practice	5	6.4%	6	5.3%	11	5.8%
Other Medical Spec.			4	3.5%	4	2.1%
Two or more specialties	8	10.3%	15	13.3%	23	12.0%
Total	78	100.0%	113	100.0%	191	100.0%

Full-time and part-time working in medicine

Tables 17 - 20 show the percentage of respondents working full-time and part-time in their main post in September 2001, for all NHS, NHS hospital, NHS general practice, and UK University posts respectively. Almost all were in full-time posts at this stage in their career.

Table 17: Working patterns of respondents in the NHS in September 2001

	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female		Count	Col %
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %		
Whole-time	804	98.4%	1087	98.2%	1891	98.3%
Part-time/flexible	13	1.6%	20	1.8%	33	1.7%
Total	817	100.0%	1107	100.0%	1924	100.0%

Table 18: Working patterns of respondents in hospital specialties in the NHS in September 2001

	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female		Count	Col %
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %		
Whole-time	772	98.7%	1026	98.4%	1798	98.5%
Part-time/flexible	10	1.3%	17	1.6%	27	1.5%
Total	782	100.0%	1043	100.0%	1825	100.0%

Table 19: Working patterns of respondents in general practice in the NHS in September 2001

	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female		Count	Col %
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %		
Whole-time	11	100.0%	31	96.9%	42	97.7%
Part-time/flexible			1	3.1%	1	2.3%
Total	11	100.0%	32	100.0%	43	100.0%

Table 20: Working patterns of respondents in UK Universities in September 2001

	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female		Count	Col %
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %		
Whole-time	13	81.3%	10	83.3%	23	82.1%
Part-time/flexible	3	18.8%	2	16.7%	5	17.9%
Total	16	100.0%	12	100.0%	28	100.0%

Job satisfaction

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

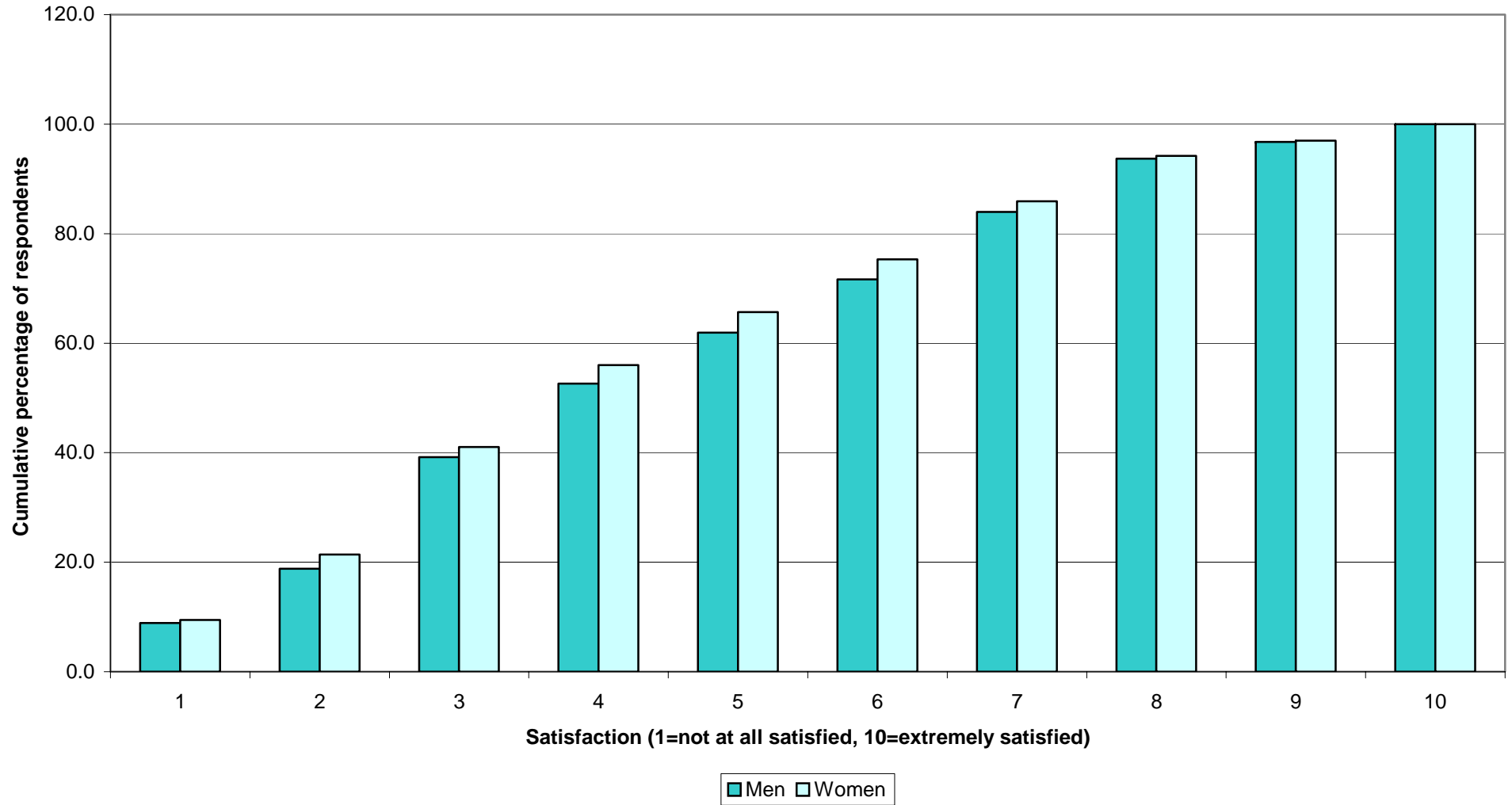
I find enjoyment in my current post
I am doing interesting and challenging work
I feel dissatisfied in my current post
Most days I am enthusiastic about my work
I am often bored with my work

Scores of 1 to 5 were assigned to the responses (with scales reversed for the 1st, 2nd and 4th statements) and the average for the 5 statements was calculated. The average score for both men and women was 3.7, indicating a good level of job satisfaction.

Lifestyle

Respondents were asked how satisfied they were with the amount of time left by work for family, social and recreational activities on a scale from 1 (*not at all*) to 10 (*greatly*). Figure 1 shows cumulative percentages for men and women. More than half of respondents (64%) scored 5 or less indicating a low level of satisfaction, 21% scored 6 or 7 indicating a reasonable level of enjoyment, and 15% scored 8, 9 or 10 indicating a high level of satisfaction.

Figure 1. Satisfaction with leisure time



Questionnaire

The following pages contain a copy of the questionnaire used for the survey

UK Medical Careers Research Group, University of Oxford
 2002 Survey of the Career Preferences and Experiences of Doctors Qualifying in 1999

Please write as clearly as possible.
 Please put a cross in the box corresponding to your choice :
 OR print in UPPER CASE between the 'comb marks' :

A	B	C	D	1	2	3	4
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Your career choices

1. Have you made up your mind about your choice of long-term career? (please cross one box)
 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 specialty choice(s) in terms of the individual specialty or subspecialty. In other words, be as specific as you wish. Where choices are of equal preference, please cross the boxes adjacent to those choices, otherwise leave blank.

1		<input type="checkbox"/>
2		<input type="checkbox"/>
3		<input type="checkbox"/>

Your career plans

3. Apart from temporary visits abroad, do you intend to practise medicine in the United Kingdom for the foreseeable future? (please cross one box)
 Yes-definitely Yes-probably Undecided No-probably not No-definitely not

If you did not answer 'Yes-definitely', are you considering (please cross one box)
 practising medicine abroad leaving medicine but remaining in the UK leaving medicine and leaving the UK

If you did not 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 undertake part or all of your future training on a less-than-full-time basis? (please cross one box) Yes No Undecided

5. Do you plan to work in a career post on a less-than-full-time basis at some point in your career? (please cross one box) Yes No Undecided

Your current post

6. **What is your current post?** (please give details of your current post, whether as a medical practitioner or in a non-medical job; or enter 'not in paid employment' if appropriate)

Starting date: (enter month and year as digits) M M / Y Y

Specialty:
 (enter medical specialty/subspecialty; type of work (if non-medical); or 'Not in paid employment')

Employer / contract: NHS-substantive NHS-honorary UK University Other
 (please cross as many as apply)

Grade: SHO Registrar Other
 (please cross one box, or write in the grade; if non-medical leave blank)

Job title:
 (only give job title if it is different from grade; if non-medical, give job title; if not employed, enter travel / career break / domestic responsibilities / illness etc if appropriate)

Location:
 (county if in the UK, or the country if abroad)

In this post, are you working (a) full-time? Yes No (b) as a locum? Yes No

7. **How satisfied are you with your current post?** (for each statement, please cross one box)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I find enjoyment in my current post.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am doing interesting and challenging work.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I feel dissatisfied in my current post.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Most days I am enthusiastic about my work.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am often bored with my work.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. **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)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
 Not at all satisfied Extremely satisfied

Your personal circumstances

9. **What is your marital status?** (please cross one box)
 single living with a spouse or a partner widowed / separated/divorced

10. **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)

11. **Are there any dependent adults (e.g. disabled, sick or elderly) whose needs could affect your ability to pursue your chosen career?** (please cross one box)
 Yes No

Your previous posts

12. **Your previous posts** (most recent first): *complete details as for question 6. Include all completed periods of employment since the end of your PRHO year. Include any substantial period(s) of time not in paid employment.*

Starting date: (enter month and year as digits) M M / Y Y Leaving date: M M / Y Y

Specialty:

Employer / contract: NHS-substantive NHS-honorary UK University Other

Grade: SHO Registrar Other

Job title:

Location:

In this post, are you working (a) full-time? Yes No (b) as a locum? Yes No

Starting date: (enter month and year as digits) M M / Y Y Leaving date: M M / Y Y

Specialty:

Employer / contract: NHS-substantive NHS-honorary UK University Other

Grade: SHO Registrar Other

Job title:

Location:

In this post, are you working (a) full-time? Yes No (b) as a locum? Yes No

Starting date: (enter month and year as digits) M M / Y Y Leaving date: M M / Y Y

Specialty:

Employer / contract: NHS-substantive NHS-honorary UK University Other

Grade: SHO Registrar Other

Job title:

Location:

In this post, are you working (a) full-time? Yes No (b) as a locum? Yes No

If you have had more than three previous posts since the end of your PRHO year, please give details of the additional posts on the additional comments form overleaf.

Your current e-mail address

13. Your e-mail address: @

(future surveys may be distributed 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,
Institute of Health Sciences, Old Road, Oxford OX3 7BR.

Specialty mainstream groupings

1. Accident and emergency
2. Anaesthetics (includes intensive care)
3. Clinical Oncology
4. Community Health (includes family planning)
5. General Practice
6. Medical specialties (includes academic medicine, cardiology, chest medicine, clinical pharmacology, dermatology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, general medicine, genetics, geriatrics, industrial medicine, infectious diseases, nephrology, neurology, rheumatology / rehabilitation, tropical medicine, venereology)
7. Obstetrics and gynaecology
8. Other medical (includes academic work, general hospital work, HM Forces, Third World medicine)
9. Surgical specialties (includes academic surgery, cardiac surgery, dental surgery, ear nose and throat, general surgery, neurosurgery, ophthalmology, orthopaedics/trauma, paediatric surgery, plastic surgery, urology, vascular surgery)
10. Paediatrics
11. Pathology (includes clinical chemistry, forensic medicine, haematology, histopathology, immunology, microbiology)
12. Psychiatry (includes adult psychiatry, child / adolescent psychiatry, forensic psychiatry, psychogeriatrics, psychotherapy)
13. Public health medicine
14. Radiology