STUDENTS' PERCEPTION OF PATHOLOGY IN EVERYDAY MEDICAL PRACTICE

Martina Bosic, Ivan Zaletel, Jovan Jevtic
Faculty of Medicine, University of Belgrade
IS MODERN PATHOLOGY ATTRACTIVE (AND WHY)?

- Complex medical specialty

- It is not visible in clinical practice
- Medicine attracts extroverts
- Influences from mentors, family, friends, and teachers in a career choice
IS MODERN PATHOLOGY ATTRACTIVE (AND WHY)?

Career specialty choices of UK medical graduates of 2015 compared with earlier cohorts: questionnaire surveys

Trevor William Lambert, Fay Smith, Michael J Goldacre


Table 3  Numbers and percentages of doctors who gave each specialty as their first choice of long-term career: UK medical graduates of 2015, 2012, 2009, 2008 and 2005 surveyed 1 year after graduation: detailed specialty breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grouped/individual specialty</th>
<th>Graduation year (Numbers)</th>
<th>Graduation year (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pathology</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forensic medicine</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General pathology</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genetics</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haematology</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Histopathology</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunology</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microbiology</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SURVEY

- **Students:**
  - 1st year - 400
  - 6th year - 336

- **High school:**
  - Gymnasium – 256 (64%)
  - Medical high school - 142 (35.5%) f

- **Students who worked as teaching assistants (TA):**
  - Department of histology and embryology - 52 (15.5%)
  - Department of pathology - 21 (6.3%).
WHAT ARE THE IMPORTANT PARTS OF EVERYDAY PRACTICE?

Marks or working as a teaching assistant don’t influence the perception of our practice
Interest in pathology is decreased by the end of medical school.
Interest in pathology remains in students with higher final mark and pathology TA
Final year students consider pathology is less important in...

- Further medical education: 6th year (18.2% don't agree, 15.5% agree) vs. 1st year (10.5% don't agree, 88.5% agree), p<0.001

- Medical practice: 6th year (19.6% don't agree, 19.6% agree) vs. 1st year (9.8% don't agree, 98.2% agree), p<0.001

- Diagnosis: 6th year (9% don't agree, 11.1% agree) vs. 1st year (7.3% don't agree, 92.7% agree), p<0.001

- Therapy: 6th year (15.8% don't agree, 23.6% agree) vs. 1st year (12.3% don't agree, 87.7% agree), p<0.001
DO GRADES MATTER IN PERCEPTION OF PATHOLOGY?

... further medical education

... medical practice

... diagnosis

... therapy

- Don't agree  Neutral  Agree
CONCLUSION

- Pathology inevitably becomes less attractive as students are exposed to clinical medicine
- Students are aware of our practices but not as much of its clinical value
- Better students can be recruited into pathology training
- Is the number of interested students enough for the future?
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Ivan Zaletel
Jovan Jevtic
Sanja Cirovic
Marija Dencic Fekete
Sanja Milenkovic

Department of Pathology
Department of Histology and Embryology
Department of Pharmacology