

# Job Satisfaction and Meaning in the Practice of Medicine: A National Physician Study

Dear Fellow Physician,

We invite you to participate in an important study of job satisfaction and meaning in the <u>practice of medicine</u>. Please complete this questionnaire to help us better understand what it is like for physicians like you to practice medicine in the contemporary healthcare context.

You were selected in such a way as to be sure that the study represents physicians nationwide, and we need everyone to participate for the study to be accurate. This questionnaire takes about 15 minutes to complete. Please know that all your responses will be confidential and your name will never be matched to your answers. If you prefer not to answer a question for any reason, you may skip it. However, we hope that you will do your best to answer to each question.

If you have questions about this study, please contact project director Kenneth Rasinski, PhD at <a href="mailto:krasinsk@uchicago.edu">krasinsk@uchicago.edu</a> or call him at (773) 834-6837. If you would like to contact the director of the University of Chicago Institutional Review Board, Anita Goodnight, she can be reached at <a href="mailto:abg@uchicago.edu">abg@uchicago.edu</a> or (773) 834-0402.

As a token of our sincere appreciation, we have enclosed a **\$20 dollar bill** with this questionnaire. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Farr A. Curlin, MD Associate Professor of Medicine The University of Chicago

## **JOB SATISFACTION AND PROFESSIONALISM**

		you say that you are currently:								
		<ul> <li>□ Very satisfied</li> <li>□ Somewhat satisfied</li> <li>□ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied</li> <li>□ Somewhat dissatisfied</li> <li>□ Very dissatisfied</li> </ul>	d							
4		Imagine a physician job that is similar to the position you currently have, except that in the new job you would: 1) spend ten «HOURS» hours each week caring for patients, 2) care for patients who are, on average, «PTHLTH» than your current patients, and 3) earn 20% «SALARY» in salary. The new job would not require relocation. In it you would work with colleagues who you regard as «COLLEAGUES» physicians.								
		Please indicate to what extent you would pref	er your cur	rent job or t	his new job	?				
		Strongly prefer my current job Somewhat prefer my current job Somewhat prefer the new job Strongly prefer the new job	b							
,		Please estimate how many hours you spend i find <i>personally rewarding:</i>		_	<i>rk</i> on activit	ies that you				
	4.	To what extent do you agree or disagree with	the followi	ng statemer	nts?					
	a)	For me, the practice of medicine is a calling.		Agree somewhat						
	-	If I had it to do over again, I would not choose medicine as a career.	1	2	3	4				
	c)	If I had it to do over again, I would go into a different clinical specialty.	<u> </u>	2	$\square_3$	4				
	d)	In the next few years, I hope to reduce the amount of time I spend in direct patient care.	1	2	3	4				
	e)	In the next few years, I hope to leave the practice of medicine.	1	2	3	4				

5. Please answer to what extent each of the following statements describes you.								
	Absolutely Untrue	Mostly Untrue	Somewhat Untrue	Can't Say True or False	Somewhat True	Mostly True	Absolutely True	
<ul> <li>a) My life has a clear meaning or purpose.</li> </ul>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
<ul><li>b) I have found a satisfactory meaning in life.</li></ul>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
<ul> <li>c) I have a clear sense of what gives meaning to my life.</li> </ul>	<u> </u>	$\square_2$	$\square_3$	$\square_4$	5	□ <sub>6</sub>	7	
d) In most ways, my life is close to my ideal	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
e) The conditions of my life are excellent.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
f) I am satisfied with my life.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
<ul><li>g) So far I have gotten the important things I want in life.</li></ul>	1	$\square_2$	3	<u></u> 4	5	<u></u>	7	
<ul> <li>h) If I could live my life over, I would change almost nothing.</li> </ul>	1	2	3	<b></b> 4	5	6	7	
6. Using your own definition  1 I enjoy my work  2 Occasionally I a once did, but I conce d	. I have no sim under straint and the straint automater and the straint and th	symptom ress, and rned out and have austion. hat I'm e	ns of burnound I don't alw to one or mo experiencing	ut. vays have a vre sympto g won't go if I can go	as much erms of burneraway. I thingon. I am at	out, suc nk abou t the poi	h as t	

7. Please indicate <i>how often</i> each of the	he follov	ving state	ements a	pplies to	o you.			
	Never	A few times a year	Once a month or less	A few times a month	Once a week	A few times a week	,	
a) I feel burned out from my work	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	
b) I have become more callous toward people since I took this job.	О	1	2	3	4	5	6	
THE DOCTOR-PATIENT RELATIONS	НІР							
In answering the following questions, please consider your own experiences caring for patients and your relationships with patients								
8. How long have you worked in your o	urrent p	lace of p	ractice?	<i>\</i>	ears			
9. Please estimate:								
a. How many individual patients do you	u see in a	a typical w	veek?		p	atients		
b. Among the patients you see in a typ	ical weel	k, how ma	any have y	you beer	taking	care of:		
1. for more than one year?	pa	atients						
2. for more than three years? _	pa	atients						
3. for more than ten years? _	pa	atients						
10. With respect to your patients:								
			Non	e A fe	ew M	any	Most	
a) With how many do you have a meanin relationship?	gful, long	j-term			1	2	3	
b) How many do you consider to be your	friends?				1	2	3	
11. How frequently do you experience	each of	the follow	wing?					
		Never	Rarely	/ Some	times O	ften A	Always	
a) I eagerly look forward to seeing patient	ts.	0	1		]2	3	4	
b) I wish I could avoid seeing patients.		0	1		2	3	4	
c) At the end of a day of seeing patients, home with the sense that I have done and worthwhile work.		0	1		2 [	3	4	

each of the following	g:								
Having a long-term relation	onship with a patient	Not at all	A little	Somewhat	A great deal				
•	y no if the patient requests a t I do not think is medically	1	2	3	4				
b) helps me discern who not need in a given si	at the patient needs and does ituation	1	2	3	4				
c) leads to better clinica	I outcomes for the patient	1	2	3	4				
d) makes it more enjoya	able for me to see the patient	1	2	3	4				
e) makes the patient true would otherwise	st me more than he or she	1	2	3	4				
f) makes the patient mor	re likely to follow my medical	1	2	3	4				
g) makes the patient mo medications regularly plan	ore likely to take their and adhere to their treatment	1	2	3	4				
13. Do you ever end up	13. Do you ever end up talking to patients after hours?								
☐ <sub>1</sub> Yes ──	If Yes, how often do you:		arely So	metimes O	often Always				
□ <sub>1</sub> Yes ──→	If Yes, how often do you:  a) enjoy talking to them		arely So		Often Always				
		Never R							
□ <sub>0</sub> No	<ul><li>a) enjoy talking to them</li><li>b) feel frustrated talking to</li></ul>	Never R	1  1  inutes are	2 [ 2 typically allotentes	3 4				
14. Do you ever see pa	a) enjoy talking to them b) feel frustrated talking to them  atients in the outpatient setting  If Yes, in your practice,  a) a new patient a b) a return patient  cale below, please describe the	Never R  0  0  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1	inutes are	typically allot minutes minutes	3 4				
14. Do you ever see pa	a) enjoy talking to them b) feel frustrated talking to them atients in the outpatient setting  If Yes, in your practice,  a) a new patient a b) a return patient	Never R  0  0  7  how many m ppointment? appointmer	inutes are	typically allot minutes minutes	3 4				

### YOUR PERSONAL EXPERIENCES IN YOUR OVERALL LIFE

Some of the following items may seem unusual or repetitive, but please complete all of the items so that we can better understand your perspective.

16. Please indicate to what extent each of the following statements is true of you.

	Never	Occasionally or Seldom	Fairly Often	Very Often or Nearly Always
<ul> <li>a) I try to pass along knowledge I have gained through my life experiences.</li> </ul>	1	_2	<b>□</b> <sub>3</sub>	4
<ul> <li>b) I feel as though I have made a difference to many people.</li> </ul>	1	$\square_2$	$\square_3$	4
c) I have important skills that I try to teach others.	<u> </u>	_2	$\square_3$	<u>4</u>
d) My actions have a positive effect on other people.	1	2	3	4
e) People come to me for advice.	<u> </u>	$\square_2$	3	<u>4</u>

17. Please indicate how frequently or infrequently you have had each of the following experiences in the **past six months**. Indicate your actual experience, not what you think your experience should be.

	Never or very rarely true	Not often true	Sometimes true Sometimes not true	Often true	Very often or always true
<ul> <li>a) I find it difficult to stay focused on what's happening in the present.</li> </ul>	1	$\square_2$	3	4	5
<ul><li>b) I watch my feelings without getting lost in them.</li></ul>	1	2	3	4	5
<ul> <li>c) In difficult situations, I can pause without immediately reacting.</li> </ul>	1	$\square_2$	3	4	5
<ul> <li>d) I find myself doing things without paying attention.</li> </ul>	1	$\square_2$	3	4	5
<ul> <li>e) When I have distressing thoughts or images, I "step back" and am aware of the thought or image without getting taken over by it.</li> </ul>	<u> </u>	2	3	4	5
<ul><li>f) When I do things, my mind wanders off and I'm easily distracted.</li></ul>	1	2	3	4	5

18. Consider how well each statement describes scale.	, ,	J		priatori	a			
	Does not describe me well				Describes me very well			
<ul> <li>a) I often have tender, concerned feelings for people less fortunate than me.</li> </ul>	1	_2	$\square_3$	<u></u> 4	5			
b) Other people's misfortunes do not usually disturb me a great deal.	1	_2	$\square_3$	<u></u> 4	5			
c) When I see someone being treated unfairly, I sometimes don't feel very much pity for them.	1	2	<u></u> 3	4	5			
d) I am often quite touched by things that I see happen.	1	2	$\square_3$	4	5			
e) I would describe myself as a pretty soft-hearted person.	1	$\square_2$	<b>3</b>	<u></u> 4	5			
<ul> <li>YOUR CLINICAL EXPERIENCES</li> <li>In the following questions, you will find a series of questions about your clinical experiences. Please complete all of the items so that we can better understand your perspective.</li> <li>19. Thinking about your role as a physician, please indicate how often each statement applies to you.</li> </ul>								
complete all of the items so that we can better un 19. Thinking about your role as a physician, pleas	nderstand se indicate	your pers	<i>pective</i> en each		ent applies to			
<ul><li>complete all of the items so that we can better ur</li><li>19. Thinking about your role as a physician, pleasyou.</li></ul>	nderstand <sub>.</sub>	your pers	pective en each nally F	stateme	ent applies t			
complete all of the items so that we can better un 19. Thinking about your role as a physician, pleas	nderstand se indicate	your person often occasion	pective en each nally F	stateme	ent applies to Very Often or Nearly			
<ul><li>complete all of the items so that we can better un</li><li>19. Thinking about your role as a physician, pleasyou.</li><li>a) I really try to slow down and give patients the</li></ul>	nderstand se indicate Never	your pers how ofte Occasior or selde	pective en each nally F	stateme	ent applies to Very Often or Nearly Always			
<ul><li>complete all of the items so that we can better unance of the items so that we can better unance of the items so that we can better unance of the items and possible of the items and possible of the items and possible of the items so that we can better unance of the items and possible of the items so that we can better unance of the items so that we can be the items so that we can be</li></ul>	nderstand se indicate Never	your pers how ofte Occasion or selde	pective en each nally F	stateme	ent applies to Very Often or Nearly Always			
<ul> <li>complete all of the items so that we can better units.</li> <li>19. Thinking about your role as a physician, please you.</li> <li>a) I really try to slow down and give patients the time and help they need.</li> <li>b) I make time to pay extra careful attention to patients' problems.</li> <li>c) I go the extra mile to help take care of my</li> </ul>	Never	your person of the how often or selder the how of the h	pective en each nally F	stateme	ent applies to Very Often or Nearly Always			
<ul> <li>complete all of the items so that we can better units.</li> <li>19. Thinking about your role as a physician, pleasing you.</li> <li>a) I really try to slow down and give patients the time and help they need.</li> <li>b) I make time to pay extra careful attention to patients' problems.</li> <li>c) I go the extra mile to help take care of my patients.</li> <li>d) I make a special point of being kind to patients</li> </ul>	Never	your pers	pective en each nally F	stateme	Very Often or Nearly Always			

	Never or ery rarely true	Not often true	Sometimes true Sometimes not true	Often true	Very often or always true
<ul> <li>a) I cope with stress without letting it hinder my care of patients.</li> </ul>	1	2	3	4	5
b) When I am with a patient, my mind wanders off and I am easily distracted.	1	2	<u></u> 3	4	5
<ul> <li>c) In my clinical work, it seems like I am running on automatic, without paying much attention to what I am doing.</li> </ul>	1	2	3	<u></u> 4	5
d) When patients are demanding and difficult, I remain calm and composed.	1	2	3	4	5
e) When I carry out everyday clinical tasks, I remain actively aware of what I am thinking and doing.	1	2	3	<u></u> 4	5
and doing.					
f) When the clinical environment is hectic, I keep my emotional composure.  11. Again, please consider your thoughts and the second sec					
f) When the clinical environment is hectic, I keep my emotional composure.	feelings	specific ving state	to your expe	rience	as a
f) When the clinical environment is hectic, I keep my emotional composure.  1. Again, please consider your thoughts and physician, and indicate how well each of the appropriate number on the scale.	feelings he follow Does descril	specific ving state not be me	to your expe	rience	as a I by choos Describes
f) When the clinical environment is hectic, I keep my emotional composure.  1. Again, please consider your thoughts and the physician, and indicate how well each of the the appropriate number on the scale.  a) I get a strong urge to help when I see a patient who is upset.	feelings he follow Does descril we	specific ving state not be me	to your expe	rience	as a I by choos Describes me very we
f) When the clinical environment is hectic, I keep my emotional composure.  11. Again, please consider your thoughts and the physician, and indicate how well each of the appropriate number on the scale.  12. Again, please consider your thoughts and the physician, and indicate how well each of the the appropriate number on the scale.  13. I get a strong urge to help when I see a patient who is upset.  14. By I get a strong urge to help when I see a patient who is upset.  15. By I upsets me to see a patient being treated	feelings he follow Does descril we	specific ving state not pe me	to your expe	rience	as a I by choos Describes me very we
f) When the clinical environment is hectic, I keep my emotional composure.  1. Again, please consider your thoughts and the physician, and indicate how well each of the the appropriate number on the scale.  a) I get a strong urge to help when I see a patient who is upset.  b) It upsets me to see a patient being treated disrespectfully.  c) I try to understand what is going on in my patients' minds by paying attention to their	feelings he follow Does descril we	specific ving state not be me sill	to your experiments described	rience	as a by choos Describes me very we

## **CHARACTERISTICS YOU ADMIRE IN OTHER PHYSICIANS**

. Among the phy physician.	ysicians you have known person	ally, thin	k about the	e <b>one</b> y	ou mos	t admir	e as a
a) What is that p	physician's clinical specialty?						
b) Please indica	te whether each of the following	is true o	f that phys	ician			
The physician	is/was				No	Ye	es .
i) a member of	your family (a relative)			0		1	
ii) one of your a	one of your attendings or preceptors during your medical training						
iii) one of your re	esidents or interns during your medi	cal traini	ng		0		1
iv) part of your	religious community or tradition				0		]1
v) a physician	you worked with prior to starting me	dical trair	ning		0		]1
c) Thinking abo	out this physician, please indicate	e how of	ten each st	atemer	nt applie	es to	
him/her:	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,						
		Never	Occasionally Seldom		airly ften	Very Of or Near Alway	rly
Tries to slow and help they	down and give patients the time need.	<u> </u>	2		3	<u></u> 4	
Makes time to patients' prob	pay extra careful attention to lems.	<u> </u>	_2		<b>3</b>	<u></u> 4	
•	a mile to help take care of patients. Ver worked closely with this physi	1	_2		3	<u></u> 4	
Tave you ev	If Yes, when you were working with		vsician how	often di	id vou fe	ما.	
$\square_2$ No	in 100, when you were working with	ii tiiio piij	Never R				Always
	a. Admiration for this physician		1	2	3	4	5
	b. Feeling of generosity		1	2	3	4	5
	c. Feeling of openness toward oth	ners	1	2	3	4	5
	d. The desire to do something god	od for pe	ople 🔲	$\square_2$	$\square_3$	$\square_4$	<sub>5</sub>
	e. The desire to be like this physic	cian	1	2	3	4	5
	f. The desire to become a better p	oerson	1	2	3	4	5

#### YOUR RELIGIOUS CHARACTERISTICS 23. How important would you say your religion is in your own life? The most important part of my life Very important in my life Fairly important in my life Not important in my life Not applicable. I have no religion 24. How often do you attend religious services? ₁ Never Fig. 1 Two to three times a month 2 Less than once a year 7 Nearly every week 3 About once or twice a year 8 Every week 4 Several times a year Several times a week 5 About once a month 25. Which of the following best indicates your religious affiliation? □ None a. If Jewish, would you say you are ... <sub>2</sub> Buddhist Orthodox 2 Conservative 3 Reform 3 Hindu ₄ Secular 5 Other ₄ Jewish 5 Muslim b. If Christian, do you consider yourself evangelical? Roman Catholic ☐<sub>1</sub> Yes ☐<sub>7</sub> Eastern Orthodox □<sub>2</sub> No Protestant o Other Christian Other Religion (please specify) 26. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Agree Agree Disagree Disagree somewhat somewhat strongly strongly Different religions have different versions of the truth, and each may be equally right in its own \_\_\_\_\_a 4 b) There is one religion that is uniquely and comprehensively true There is no one, true, right religion c) 2 3 I try hard to carry my religious beliefs over into all d)

my other dealings in life

e)

religion

My whole approach to life is based on my

27. To what extent do you consider yourself a spiritual person?
<ul> <li>Understand the state of the st</li></ul>
OTHER BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS
28. Are you a hospitalist? 1 Yes
29. Is your primary place of practice an academic medical center or teaching hospital?  The second s
30. Is your patient population considered medically underserved?
a. If Yes, indicate the location of your practice:  Rural community  Inner-city community  Other (please specify):
31. Please estimate how many hours you spend in a typical week doing:
A. Outpatient care:(# hours/week)
B. Inpatient care:(# hours/week)
C. Other work-related tasks:(# hours/week)
32. Do you consider yourself Hispanic or Latino?  1 Yes 2 No  33. How would you classify your race? [CHECK ONLY ONE]
A. If Asian  A. If Asian, do you think of yourself as  A. If Asian, do you think of yourself as  Last Asian or Pacific Islander  Last Asian  South Asian  Other (please specify)
34. Which of the following best describes how long you have been in the United States?  ☐₁ You immigrated to the United States as an adult. ☐₂ You immigrated to the United States as a child. ☐₃ One or both of your parents immigrated to the United States before you were born. ☐₃ Both of your parents were born in the United States

LAST QUESTIONS! Please do your best to respond								
35. Please respond to the following items by marking the box that best reflects your own beliefs.								
	Disagree Strongly	Disagree somewhat	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree somewhat	Agree strongly			
a) I deserve more things in my life.	1	2	3	4	5			
b) Things should go my way.	1	2	3	4	5			
c) I feel entitled to more of everything.	1	2	3	4	5			
36. Please indicate your 2010 before-tax income from work as a physician by checking one of the boxes below:								
37. As best you can remember, when you class were you in with respect to acade  1 Top 25% of class  2 2 <sup>nd</sup> quartile 3 3 <sup>rd</sup> quartile 4 Bottom 25% of class	•			•	•			
38. Please tell us any other comments you finding meaning in the practice of media		rding your e	xperiences	as a physic	cian and			
If you would be willing to participate in a 15								
experiences as a physician, please indicat respondents who volunteer will be contacted		preterred v	vay to reac	n you. A poi	rtion of			

Please return this survey in the enclosed, postage-paid envelope. **Thank you** for participating!

Phone number: (\_\_\_\_)

Email me

Q7 was adapted from the Maslach Burnout Inventory (MBI) by Wilmar Schaufeli, Michael P. Leiter, Christina Maslach and Susan Jackson. Copyright 1996 by Consulting Psychologists Press. All rights reserved. Further reproduction is prohibited without the Publisher's written consent.