

2022 Best Research Poster Award



Medical Student Perceptions: Who wants to be a Urologist?

Dr Jessica Wynn¹, Dr Briony Norris², Dr Lydia Johns Putra²

1. Barwon Health, Victoria 2. Ballarat Base Hospital, Victoria

BACKGROUND AND AIM

Urology forms a very small component of medical school curriculum in Australia. Anecdotally, very few medical students have a formalised urology rotation as part of their clinical rotations.

International studies have shown that exposure to urology, positive perceptions towards urology and having a mentor in urology influences the selection of urology as a specialty for students (1-2).

As selection to urology is highly competitive, it is important that the most suitable and appropriate doctors apply. This study aims to look at the attitudes of Australian medical students towards urology and what influences students to pursue a career in urology.

RESULTS

- Surveys were sent to 111 medical students
- Response rate of 71.2%
- 68 surveys were fully complete for analysis
- Gender distribution (F:M)= 39:29 students
- Average age 25.5 years old (range: 22-37 years old)
- 30.9% of surveyed medical students would consider urology as a specialty
- Gender, stage in clinical training, length of urology placement and mentorship not predictive of a selection of urology as a specialty
- Younger students and certain perceptions of urology lead to selection of urology as a specialty

METHODS

An online questionnaire was sent to medical students. The survey collected basic demographic data, and asked for opinions on generic statements about urology, presence of a mentor and likelihood of pursuing urology as a specialty in the future. Data analysis was conducted on SPSS, p value <0.05 was considered statistically significant.

DISCUSSION

- Although our findings are inconsistent with international data on this topic, they help us characterize the young aspiring urologist
- Limitations include:
 - Small sample size
 - All medical students were exposed to the same, single urology unit, reducing heterogeneity of results

WHO WANTS TO BE A UROLOGIST?



Demographics

Students under the age of 25



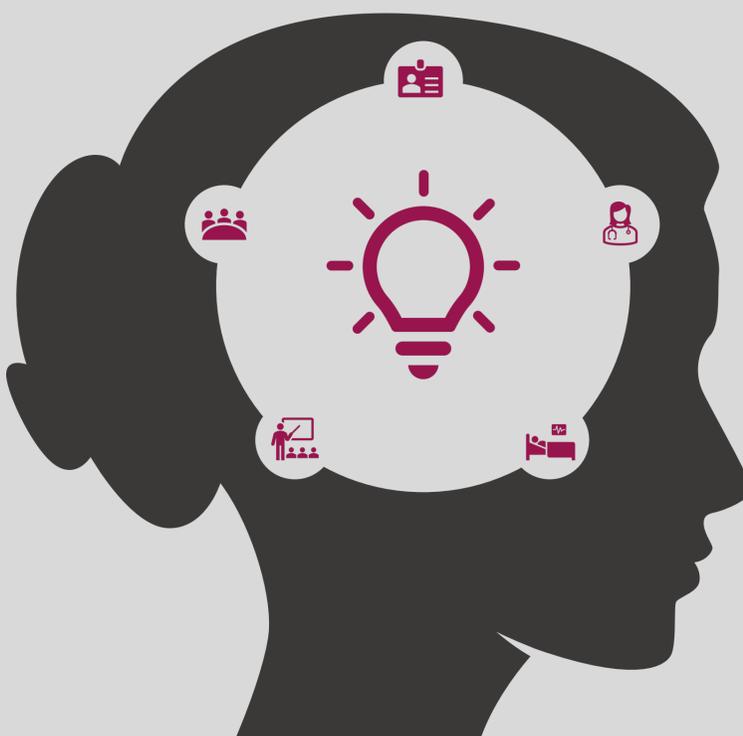
Perceptions of the urology team

Students who considered urology teams to be approachable



Perceptions of the urology trainee

Students who perceived urology to have a flexible training program



Perceptions of the urology consultant



Students who perceived urologists to have high career satisfaction, a flexible career and good work-life balance

Perceptions of clinical urology



Students who considered the practice of urology to have diverse patient interactions and a wide range of practice

CONCLUSIONS

- Medical students are drawn to urology for three broad reasons: the diversity of practice and patients; high career satisfaction and good lifestyle; and the possibility of flexible training and practice
- More needs to be done to inform medical students of the positive aspects of urology and to continue to provide flexible training in order to make urology a more attractive choice of specialty

REFERENCES

1. Matloubieh J, Eghbali M, Abraham N. Strategies to Encourage Medical Student Interest in Urology. Current Urology Reports. 2020;21(10):1-7.
2. Kim S, Farrokhyar F, Braga LH. Survey on the perception of urology as a specialty by medical students. Canadian Urological Association Journal. 2016;10(9-10):349-54.