

Fact Sheet #1

2008 Preceptor Survey

Summary Data, All Respondents

Summary

We are pleased to report on the Georgia Statewide AHEC Network's first survey of community based medical student preceptors. We sent 210 surveys to preceptors who had trained third- and fourth-year medical students in at least two rotations, and by October 2008, we had received 158 completed surveys, a 75% return. In general, the preceptors are happy with mentoring future physicians, and expect to continue doing so for the next five years.

Among the 158 preceptors who completed the survey, 90% had precepted 2 or 3 medical student rotations during the past 12 months. Demographically, 74% were Caucasian, 14% African American, 6% Asian, and 5% Hispanic. A majority were male (79%) and between the ages of 40 and 59 years old (66%). Our preceptors reported having worked in the medical profession for an average of 17 years (range, 2-50 years).

Disciplines

Most preceptors who responded to the survey are practicing in Internal Medicine (28%), Family Medicine (18%), or Pediatrics (15%). The specialties of Obstetrics and Gynecology (9%), Emergency Medicine (8%), Surgery (8%), and Psychiatry/Psychology (4%) were also represented, as were Cardiology, Dentistry, Dermatology, Gastroenterology, Neurology, Orthopedics, Pulmonology, and Radiology ($\leq 1\%$ each).

Regions

More preceptors practice in the SOWEGA AHEC (33%) and Magnolia Coastlands AHEC (23%) regions than any other AHEC region. There are preceptors in all regions, including the other AHECs (Three Rivers, Blue Ridge, SPCC Atlanta, and Foothills).

Degree of Satisfaction

It was rewarding to note that 88% are either satisfied or very satisfied with their experience as a community-based preceptor. And of great importance, 86% say they are likely to continue as preceptors over the next five years.

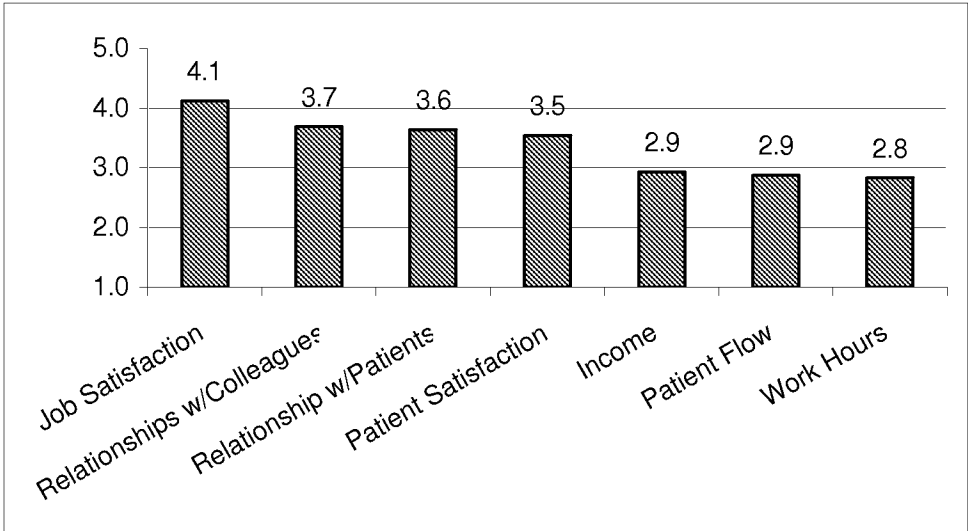
Next Steps

Over the next few months, we will be releasing a series of fact sheets as we analyze the data by age of preceptor, geographic region, and by discipline of the preceptor. Please watch our website to obtain these Fact Sheets as they are released (www.mcg.edu/ahec).

Influence of Students on Preceptors' Practice

Preceptors reported very positive practice impacts as the result of precepting students. Particularly, they appreciated the positive impact on their own job satisfaction, relationships with colleagues and patients, and patient satisfaction as key elements in the ways students influence their practice.

Preceptors were asked to rank the influence of students on their practice from 1 (very negative) to 5 (very positive). The categories were overall job satisfaction, patient satisfaction, patient flow, income, working hours, relationships with patients, and relationships with colleagues and staff.



Rewards of Precepting

Valued rewards were clear: the opportunity to teach, to give back to the profession, to be intellectually challenged, and to serve as role models to future practitioners. Rewards such as teaching stipends, status, and concrete incentives were less important. Preceptors were asked to indicate the importance of various items in their decision to precept students, using a scale of 1 (none) to 5 (very great)

