

The Influence of Role Models on Choosing a Medical Specialty in KAMC-Riyadh

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Abstract

Objectives: *To identify the interns and R1 residents' role model choice and its effect on choosing their medical specialty and career outcome.*

Methods: *A questionnaire was developed by South Carolina University professors. We took permission for conducting the same study on our R1 and interns in KAMC-Riyadh. The questionnaire was modified and translated. The questionnaire has closed ended questions. All data was entered in Excel and then were analyzed using SPSS.*

Results: *The Study had a participation of 80 individual, 61 of which were males and the remaining 19 were females. A total of 45 individuals out of the 80 have a physician role model, 29 of the 45 decided to choose the same career specialty as their role models. 64.4% of the 45 who have physician role models had chosen the same career specialty as their recognized role models, the remaining haven't got influenced by their respective role models to choose their career specialty.*

Conclusion : *64.4% of the medical graduates who have physician role models had chosen the same career specialty as their recognized role models, the remaining haven't got influenced by their respective role models to choose their career specialty.*

Keywords: *Interns, Models, Medical, Role, Specialty.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Medical students in their medical field meet, interact, and get involved in lectures by physicians in a wide variety of fields. Some of the physicians in the clinic or the hospital have a great influence on medical students who are about to make the decision of their medical career life, as being so intelligent, caring and informative and the medical student may get influenced by them to choose his field. Role model generally means the person who is served as an example, and whose behavior is imitated and admired by others. Medical students and career choosing have a huge importance of when they should decide to get involved in a residency program of a specific field. Some they choose it because they admire and got influenced by a good physician and some not.

A study took place in 1998 in South Carolina on medical graduates to decide when and where they had made contact with their role models and where they had influenced them to choose their careers. About 50% identified a physician role model during their medical school. [1] Better education of students and increase interacting with role models in a specific field has shown an increase in medical student's entry into that field. [2]

Some clinical faculty questioned if one role model could have an effect rather than a whole team, and they recommended that the student should engage himself in a group of professionals than in focusing in one role model to would influence him in choosing the career. [3] In surgery, the specialty choice factors are mostly responsible for the resident to choose in which field he should get in. Types of procedures and techniques, ability to balance work and personal life, and exposure to positive role model are the factors. [4] Clinical and medicine experiences as well as role models are significant factors for students to choose their fields. [5] Duration and durability of relationships with role models is also an important factor of determination. [6] students supported by role models has a great importance as well.[7] number of times of personal experiences in a field played a role also.[8] there are numerous factors that affect career choosing , such as, the duration of clinical education experiences, the length of the experience, and the place where the student encountered it.[9]

The purpose of this research is to identify the interns and R1 residents' role model choice and its effect on choosing their medical specialty and career outcome. We chose interns and R1 residents because by the time a medical doctor becomes an R2 they would have already begun their career path. The study took place in King Abdulaziz Medical City (KAMC), King Fahad Hospital in Riyadh.

II. HEADINGS

1. Introduction Medical students in their medical field meet, interact, and get involved in lectures by physicians in a wide variety of fields. Some of the physicians in the clinic or the hospital have a great influence on medical students who are about to make the decision of their medical career life. A study took place in 1998 in South Carolina on medical graduates to decide when and where they had made contact with their role models and where they had influenced them to choose their careers. About 50% identified a physician role model during their medical school. The purpose of this research is to identify the interns and R1 residents' role model choice and its effect on choosing their medical specialty and career outcome in KAMC-Riyadh.

2. Aim & Objectives To identify the interns and R1 residents' role model choice and its effect on choosing their medical specialty and career outcome and to compare the outcome of this study with the South Carolina study on medical Graduates by Basco WT Jr, Reigart JR.

3. Methods A questionnaire was developed by South Carolina University professors. We took permission for conducting the same study on our R1 and interns KAMC-Riyadh. The questionnaire was modified and translated. A question about ethnicity was removed due to racial consideration. The questionnaire has closed ended questions such as demographic information including: age, gender, and marital status, having a physician role model at the entry of medical school. Open ended questions in the questionnaire will have questions about the specialty or sub specialty of the role model. Data was collected only by persons included in the study and entered in password-protected files, only people working in the study will be able to view it and data confidentiality will be insured. The questionnaire will be distributed to Interns and R1s working or rotating in KAMC-Riyadh. All data will be entered in Excel and then analyzed using SPSS. The categorical variables will be presented as frequencies and percentages.

4. Results The Study had a participation of 80 individual, 61 of which were males and the remaining 19 were females. A total of 45 individuals out of the 80 have a physician role model, 29 of the 45 decided to choose the same career specialty as their role models. 64.4% of the 45 who have physician role models had chosen the same career specialty as their recognized role models, the remaining haven't got influenced by their respective role models to choose their career specialty. The P value was calculated by SPSS and turned out to be 0.009

5. Discussion The findings of the research indicates that a great number of Interns and R1 residents who have a role model got influenced by their respective role models on choosing their medical specialty. The same study in South Carolina on medical graduates. About 50% identified a physician role model during their medical school and chose the same specialty. In our study 64.4% chose the same specialty as their perspective role models.

III. FIGURES & TABLES

Table1. number of individuals who have role models in each specialty and the chosen career specialty

	ER	Medicine	Pathology	Pediatrics	Radiology	Surgery	Total
ER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medicine	1	9	0	2	0	2	14
Pathology	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
Pediatrics	0	1	0	6	0	2	9
Radiology	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Surgery	1	4	0	0	0	14	19
Total	2	15	0	8	1	19	45

Table1 show the number of individuals who have role models in each specialty and the chosen career specialty, the horizontal columns show the number of individuals who have a role model in each specialty, the vertical columns show the number of chosen specialty of interest

Table2. percentage of individuals who have role models in each specialty

	ER	Medicine	Pathology	Pediatrics	Radiology	Surgery	Total
ER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medicine	2.2%	20.0%	0	4.4%	0.0%	4.4%	31.1%

Pathology	0.0%	2.2%	0	0.0%	2.2%	0.0%	4.4%
Pediatrics	0.0%	2.2%	0	13.3%	0.0%	4.4%	20.0%
Radiology	0.0%	0.0%	0	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%	2.2%
Surgery	2.2%	8.9%	0	0.0%	0.0%	31.1%	42.2%
Total	4.4%	33.3%	0	17.8%	2.2%	42.2%	100.0%

Table 2 shows the percentage of individuals who have role models in each specialty and the chosen career specialty, the horizontal columns show the percentage of individuals who have a role model in each specialty, the vertical columns show the percentage of chosen specialty of interest

IV. CONCLUSION

Physician role models have their profound effect on students and medical graduates on choosing their medical specialty. The same study in South Carolina on medical graduates. About 50% identified a physician role model during their medical school and chose the same specialty. In our study 64.4% chose the same specialty as their perspective role models.

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