

# Section D

# CAREER PROFILES

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*This chapter is a summary of a survey that was also sent to a sample of established physicians across Canada. The majority of the questions focused on lifestyle issues pertaining to their respective careers. This chapter also includes average salaries for physicians by specialty and province.*

**A word about study methods**

In this particular section, we attempted to contact physicians across the country practising in a variety of clinical settings with varied years of experience.

Members of the MSC committee generated items that were considered of interest to candidates applying to a residency program. These included financial compensation, job satisfaction, and workload. These career profile surveys were emailed to physicians, and their responses to the questions are shown below in unaltered form.

**Anesthesia****About you**

Occupation	Anesthesiologist	Anesthesiologist	Anesthesiologist	Anesthesiologist/ Critical Care	Anesthesiologist	Anesthesiologist
Years in current practice	35	36	29	15	20	12
Type of practice	University-clinical and academic	Urban, 5 days/week, primarily university-based	Urban	Teach >20; urban	Teach <20; urban	Teach >20; urban
Division of time/time in research	90% clinical	90% clinical, 10% teaching	95% clinical, 5% research	25–50%	1–25%	1–25%
Family status	Married, two children, no grandchildren	Married, children	Married, three children	Married, children	Married, children	Married, children

**About the job**

Occupation	Anesthesiologist	Anesthesiologist	Anesthesiologist	Anesthesiologist/ Critical Care	Anesthesiologist	Anesthesiologist
Average hours per week	60	80	80	71–100	51–70	51–70
Three most common complaints	1) Relatively poorly paid 2) On-call means necessarily in hospital usually 3) Some hospital staff have low opinion of Anesthesia as a specialty	1) Lack of recognition by the general public 2) Lack of consideration from surgical colleagues and nurses (e.g., Anesthesiologists are viewed as part of the furniture) 3) Do not get paid as much as deserved	1) Lack of remuneration 2) Lack of resources 3) Lack of control over your practice	1) Inefficiency 2) Resources 3) Communication	1) Not enough time 2) Recognition for work done 3) More space	1) Stress 2) Paperwork 3) Poor administration support
Adequately paid?	Not really	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
What do you like the most about the career?	Interesting work (every case a physiological experiment). University connection means contact with young, uncluttered minds—ability to learn while teaching; no need to “suck up” to referring physicians—very portable career (has allowed me to work in Northern Ontario, USA, Africa, Middle East)	You don't have to get to know patients well and develop emotional attachments	Helping people, no office, no follow-up	Patients	Helping patients, interacting with colleagues and staff	Intellectual challenge, interesting procedures to perform, challenging mix of Pathophysiology/ Pharmacology.  Making a difference in people's lives

Occupation	Anesthesiologist	Anesthesiologist	Anesthesiologist	Anesthesiologist/ Critical Care	Anesthesiologist	Anesthesiologist
What do you want to improve?	"People" skills and administrative skills	Increase the income	Increase the hourly rate to attract more Anesthesiologists; have more control over OR time—not the administration; provision of a different health care system	Inefficiency	Have more Anesthesiologists available to do the work	More flexibility with hours, improved support by hospital administration (e.g., equipment, personnel for OR, Recovery Room, and Chronic Pain Clinic)
Would you choose Anesthesiology if you were to start a career in medicine all over again?	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

### About your life

Occupation	Anesthesiologist	Anesthesiologist	Anesthesiologist	Anesthesiologist/ Critical Care	Anesthesiologist	Anesthesiologist
What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?	Read, jog, swim	Jog, read, attend concerts	Travel, exercise, tennis, nice dinners	Read, music, movies	Hike, bicycle, ATV offroad, photography, video, mapping, plotting new trails, computer, movies	Family activities, ballroom dancing, house/yard work
Does family life ever suffer as a result of the career?	Rarely	Occasionally	Often	Often	Sometimes	Often
Job satisfaction (1–10)	9	8	6	8	8	6
One-sentence summary	N/A	This specialty is good if you do not depend on close relationships with patients. There is the opportunity to work part-time (e.g., for mothers who want to be at home some days).	This is a specialty suited to a person who loves Anesthesiology—the need for a rapid response, no time to think. You need to be on your toes all the time.	Stress is a frequent part of the job and should be recognized as such by anyone entering the specialty.	Great specialty with lots of job opportunities and personal satisfaction	The work is exciting and interesting. I love what I do. With proper support and better chronic pain (not Anesthesiology) remuneration, it would be terrific!

## Cardiac Surgery

### About you

Occupation	<b>Cardiac Surgery</b>
Years in current practice	7
Type of practice	Cardiac Surgery
Time in research	It all blends into one blur!
Family status	Married, with 3 children

### About the job

Occupation	<b>Cardiac Surgery</b>
Average hours per week	100
Three most common symptoms reported by your patients	Chest pain, anxiety, dyspnea
Adequately paid?	No
Like the most?	Immediate gratification
Want to improve?	Increased resources

### About your life

Occupation	<b>Cardiac Surgery</b>
In your spare time?	Golf
Does family life ever suffer?	Yes
Job satisfaction (1–10)	9
One-sentence summary	Very demanding and time consuming job...but this is the life I've chosen.

## Community Medicine

### About you

	<b>Academic Community Medicine Physician – Assistant Professor</b>	<b>Scientist (Researcher) and Family Practice (20%)</b>	<b>Community Medicine Specialist</b>
Occupation			
Years in current practice	Six years at U of T, 15 years of public health practice	Research: three years; clinical practice: 13 years	Two in current position; 20 in the field
Type of practice	Teaches >20 days per year, urban practice	Research-urban, clinical-rural	Urban; teaches <20 days per year
Time in research	1–25%	1	1–25%
Family status	Married, children	Single, no children	Married, children

### About the job

	<b>Academic Community Medicine Physician – Assistant Professor</b>	<b>Scientist (Researcher) and Family Practice (20%)</b>	<b>Community Medicine Specialist</b>
Occupation			
Average hours per week	51–70	35–50	51–70
Three most common complaints	1) Challenges in education 2) Infectious disease outbreaks 3) Public health surveillance, environmental exposure, and health promotion	1) Research? N/A	—
Three most common symptoms reported by your patients	—	—	1) Communicable disease prevention and control 2) Chronic disease prevention
Adequately paid?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Like the most?	The students, the challenge of teaching, the focus on community health and long-term impact on health	N/A	Interesting, challenging, makes a difference in the population
Want to improve?	Have more time to work on evaluating effectiveness of education, having more time to work on applied public health issues such as surveillance. Right now, I am a consultant and have to limit my involvement due to the hours required to teach. Hence, I can only be involved at a more superficial level.	N/A	Stable sufficient funding for public health, sufficient backup

### About your life

	<b>Academic Community Medicine Physician – Assistant Professor</b>	<b>Scientist (Researcher) and Family Practice (20%)</b>	<b>Community Medicine Specialist</b>
Occupation			
In your spare time?	Run, garden, brew beer	Quite active, varied, interested	Read, bike, garden
Does family life ever suffer?	Rarely (it was more difficult when I worked in public health but academic hours are more flexible and I can work from home more easily)	Rarely	Sometimes
Job satisfaction (1–10)	9 I get a bit tired every so often from marking and reading papers. However, overall I would not change it at all.	9.5	6
One-sentence summary	Community Medicine offers a tremendous variety of career options that span academics, to research to applied public health. There are always challenges and one is never bored. You do need to be a self-starter in that one has to look for problems and be proactive. One also has to accept a very limited clinical practice. However, the rewards are worth it (from my perspective).	Community Medicine is a varied specialty with an inexhaustible number of options from international development to population-focus clinical practice. It is impossible not to find satisfying, important work. The specialty is particularly well-suited to those who are interested in improving the health of entire populations as opposed to a strictly individual clinic approach.	Community Medicine is a field of medicine in which the health of the community or population is assessed and managed. Community Medicine practitioners use strategies of health promotion, health protection, and disease prevention in improving the health of the public.

## Dermatology

### About you

Occupation	<b>Dermatology Resident</b>	<b>Dermatologist</b>
Years in current practice	2	15
Type of practice	Resident	Academic/private
Division of time	Work & studying 75%, Social, other 25%	50/50
Family status	Single	Married

### About the job

Occupation	<b>Dermatology Resident</b>	<b>Dermatologist</b>
Average hours per week	60	50
Three most common complaints	Skin cancer, psoriasis, skin manifestations	Pre-cancerous skin lesions, dermatitis, mole check
Adequately paid?	Not really	Yes
Like the most?	Treating the patients	Variety
Want to improve?	I don't really have any complaints, other than the misperception that Dermatologists are "pimple popper MDs"	Less number of patients seen

### About your life

Occupation	<b>Dermatology Resident</b>	<b>Dermatologist</b>
In your spare time?	Church activities, singing, exercising	Spending time with my family
Does family life ever suffer?	Sometimes	Somewhat
Job satisfaction (1–10)	10 once I'm staff, but right now 9	8
One-sentence summary	Dermatology is a phenomenal career choice, where you can see a variety of conditions affecting every ethnicity and all age groups. The opportunities in medical dermatology, surgery, pathology, and research are numerous. I couldn't see myself in any other career.	Interesting variety, helping people, problem solving and relative independence are terms that describe Dermatology.

## Diagnostic Radiology

### About you

Occupation	<b>Diagnostic Radiologist</b>
Years in current practice	23
Type of practice	No research, suburban
Time in research	None
Family status	Married, children

### About the job

Occupation	<b>Diagnostic Radiologist</b>
Average hours per week	35
Three most common symptoms reported by your patients	1) Pain NYD 2) Wt loss 3) Cough
Adequately paid?	Yes
Like the most?	Pure diagnostics
Want to improve?	Nothing

### About your life

Occupation	<b>Diagnostic Radiologist</b>
In your spare time?	Read, ski, garden
Does family life ever suffer?	Rarely
Job satisfaction (1–10)	9
One-sentence summary	Great general multi-disciplinary overview of medicine

## Emergency Medicine

### About you

Occupation	ER Staff	GP on ER roster	Chief ER Staff
Years in current practice	4	30	20
Type of practice	Urban, teaches >20 days per year		Suburban, teaches >20 days per year
Time in research	None	None	None/hates research
Family status	Married, two children	Married	Married, three boys

### About the job

Occupation	ER Staff	GP on ER roster	Chief ER Staff
Average hours per week	35–50	35–50	35–50
Three most common complaints	1) Shift work 2) Hectic	1) Back pain	1) Standard of care is dwindling 2) Perceived lack of compassion by patients 3) Not paid enough for saving a life in 15 minutes
Adequately paid?	Yes	Yes	No
Like the most?	Variety of patients, e.g., geriatric/pediatric, male/female	Patient contact	Nothing is ever the same/variety
Want to improve?	Decrease volume, more staff	More RNs	Decrease patient volume, i.e., need more time for patient care

### About your life

Occupation	ER Staff	GP on ER roster	Chief ER Staff
In your spare time?	Family stuff	Everything	Family, tennis, jogging, skiing
Does family life ever suffer?	Rarely	Rarely	Between sometimes and often
Job satisfaction (0–10)	8	10	8
One-sentence summary	If you don't mind shift work, this is the best you could ask for.	Go for it.	A great career that is not advertised enough; you need to spend time with someone like myself to learn about it.

## Family Medicine

### About you

Occupation	GP	Family Medicine
Years in current practice	18	22
Type of practice	Urban, 100% independent	Family Health Team
Division of time	90% clinical, 10% research	70/30
Family status	Married, two children	Married, two children

### About the job

Occupation	GP	Family Medicine
Average hours per week	55	50
Three most common complaints	Doctor complaints: 1) Too much paperwork 2) Too many patients/clinical volume 3) Staff problems	Patient complaints: Depression/anxiety, intercurrent illness of childhood, chronic disease management, diabetes, hypertension
Adequately paid?	No	Yes
Like the most?	Interaction with patients	Relationships
Want to improve?	Work less, make more	Working less

### About your life

Occupation	GP	Family Medicine
In your spare time?	Travel	Golf, flying, cottage life
Does family life ever suffer?	Always	At times, late nights, call
Job satisfaction (1–10)	8	9
One-sentence summary	This is a specialty for people who are willing to put in a lot of hours.	The work gives you the opportunity to share in people's lives, their triumphs and tragedies, sometimes to help

## General Surgery

### About you

Occupation	<b>General Surgeon/Administrator</b>	<b>General Surgeon/Trauma Surgeon/ Critical Care Medicine/Scientist</b>
Years in current practice	27	2
Type of practice	HOB Oncology; teach >20 days per year; urban	Teach <20 days per year; urban
Division of time	1-25%	25-50%
Family status	Married, children	Married, children

### About the job

Occupation	<b>General Surgeon/Administrator</b>	<b>General Surgeon/Trauma Surgeon/ Critical Care Medicine/Scientist</b>
Average hours per week	51-70	71-100
Three most common complaints	—	1) Too busy 2) Too much work done off regular hours 3) Too much pressure to always work more
Adequately paid?	Yes	Yes
Like the most?	Clinical; changing; interesting; results-oriented; administration; chance to be a part of decision-making	You can (really) make a difference between life and death
Want to improve?	More resources for health care based on REAL costs	Need more time off work

### About your life

Occupation	<b>General Surgeon/Administrator</b>	<b>General Surgeon/Trauma Surgeon/ Critical Care Medicine/Scientist</b>
In your spare time?	Family, sports, music, theatre, dinners with friends	Stay with family, play/watch soccer
Does family life ever suffer?	Sometimes	Sometimes
Job satisfaction (1-10)	7	8
One-sentence summary	General Surgery has a breadth and depth that is unparalleled in surgical practice.	Lots of work, lots of fun.

## Internal Medicine

### About you

Occupation	<b>Internist (Infectious Disease)</b>
Years in current practice	30
Type of practice	Independent
Division of time	Minimal
Family status	—

### About the job

Occupation	<b>Internist (Infectious Disease)</b>
Average hours per week	50
Three most common complaints	1) Bureaucracy 2) Weekend call 3) —
Adequately paid?	Fine
Like the most?	Case variety
Want to improve?	Bureaucratic infrastructure

### About your life

Occupation	<b>Internist (Infectious Disease)</b>
In your spare time?	—
Does family life ever suffer?	Occasionally
Job satisfaction (1-10)	—
One-sentence summary	—

## Internal Medicine Cardiology

### About you

Occupation	<b>Cardiologist</b>	<b>Cardiologist</b>
Years in current practice	23	3
Type of practice	General and invasive cardiology. Community Cardiology	Academic
Division of time	90% patient care 5% administration 5% research	80% clinical/teaching; 20% research/admin
Family status	Married, with 6 children	Married

### About the job

Occupation	<b>Cardiologist</b>	<b>Cardiologist</b>
Average hours per week	40–60	50
Three most common complaints	Acute coronary syndromes presenting to the ER or transferred from other hospitals. Follow up of chronic stable CAD in office setting. Assessment of chest pain both in office and hospital.	Chest pain, shortness of breath, palpitations (coronary disease, heart failure, arrhythmias)
Adequately paid?	Yes	Yes
Like the most?	Being the decision maker in the management of patients. Being “my own boss”	Interesting clinical problems are presented. There is an opportunity for acute (CCU) and chronic patient care. New technology is frequently being introduced (transcatheter therapies, ventricular assist devices, AICDs/ pacemakers) and there are numerous advances in cardiac imaging that improve understanding of the CV system.
Want to improve?	Recruit more cardiologists to spread out the workload.	Nothing specifically related to cardiology. Interpersonal conflict and politics are always present in an academic, tertiary care hospital.

### About your life

Occupation	<b>Internist (Infectious Disease)</b>	<b>Cardiologist</b>
In your spare time?	Spending time with my family. Golfing.	Ski, hike, garden, music, play piano
Does family life ever suffer?	Yes	Hard to say. The hours are clearly longer than many jobs, but with organization, support and some compromises, it's manageable.
Job satisfaction (1–10)	8	9
One-sentence summary	Great choice of career. Will definitely encourage some of my children to become physicians.	Cardiology is a great career if you like a more more intensive specialty with potential for procedures and imaging.

Sunny from Case 6 is interested in a career in Cardiology, limited to a 50-hour work week. The lifestyle profiles highlighted here indicate that such a career is possible for Sunny. In general, most new physicians should be able to find a niche within a specialty to accommodate the hours they'd like to work.

## Internal Medicine Endocrinology

### About you

Occupation	<b>Endocrinologist</b>	<b>Endocrinologist</b>
Years in current practice	9	1
Type of practice	Academic	Community Clinical
Division of time	75 % teaching, 10 % research 10% administrative, 5% other	100% Clinical
Family status	Single	Single

### About the job

Occupation	<b>Endocrinologist</b>	<b>Endocrinologist</b>
Average hours per week	50-60	60
Three most common complaints	Diabetes, Thyroid, Osteoporosis	Diabetes, thyroid, amenorrhea
Adequately paid?	Yes	Yes
Like the most?	Variety of cases, interesting problems	Patient interaction
Want to improve?	The amount of paperwork.	Paperwork

### About your life

Occupation	<b>Endocrinologist</b>	<b>Endocrinologist</b>
In your spare time?	Theatre, concerts, travel, photography	Yoga, going to the theatre
Does family life ever suffer?	No	Yes
Job satisfaction (1–10)	8	8
One-sentence summary	I am glad a chose Endocrinology.	For the part you are in control of your schedule and time, but how much you put into it determines your degree of satisfaction and the that of the patients.

## Internal Medicine Gastroenterology

### About you

Occupation	<b>Gastroenterology</b>	<b>Hepatologist</b>
Years in current practice	21	9
Type of practice	Urban, university teaching hospital, and private clinical practice	Academic, university hospital
Division of time	75% clinical with clinical teaching, 25% admin and classroom teaching	50% clinical, 15% research, 10% admin, 25% teaching
Family status	Married, two daughters	Single

### About the job

Occupation	<b>Gastroenterology</b>	<b>Hepatologist</b>
Average hours per week	60	50–60
Three most common complaints	Doctor complaints: 1. Lack of clinical resources 2. Paperwork 3. Clinical volume	Patient complaints: Hepatitis C, abnormal liver tests, non alcoholic fatty liver disease
Adequately paid?	Yes	
Like the most?	Clinical practice	Variety between clinical, teaching, admin, and research
Want to improve?	—	Nothing

### About your life

Occupation	<b>Gastroenterology</b>	<b>Hepatologist</b>
In your spare time?	Sports, travel, family activities	Shopping, traveling, sleeping
Does family life ever suffer?	Occasionally	Partly
Job satisfaction (1–10)	7	8.5
One-sentence summary	Great clinical specialty for those willing and interested in working hard.	Fulfilling

## Internal Medicine General Internal Medicine

### About you

Occupation	<b>General Internal Medicine/Infectious Disease</b>	<b>General Internal Medicine</b>
Years in current practice	32	6
Type of practice	Academic Health Science Center “hospitalist”	Academic
Division of time	Teaching/education 50%; clinical 45%; administration 5%	50% teaching, 50% clinical
Family status	Divorced, with 2 adult children	Married

### About the job

Occupation	<b>General Internal Medicine/Infectious Disease</b>	<b>General Internal Medicine</b>
Average hours per week	56	60
Three most common complaints	GIM: pneumonia, dementia, complications of cancer, stroke. ID: nosocomial infection, fever, bacteremia, cellulitis, HIV	Pneumonia, CHF, Stroke
Adequately paid?	Yes	So-so
Like the most?	Acute care of severely ill patients	Variety, contact with students
Want to improve?	Ability to deal with “high maintenance” patients and families	Remuneration, support from hospital

### About your life

Occupation	<b>General Internal Medicine/Infectious Disease</b>	<b>General Internal Medicine</b>
In your spare time?	Hiking, reading, travel, restaurant meals, playing with my granddaughter, watching Leafs’ hockey	Bicycling, time with family
Does family life ever suffer?	No	Not much
Job satisfaction (1–10)	10	8
One-sentence summary	What a privilege it is to be in this profession!	Great life, nice job

## Internal Medicine Hematology

### About you

Occupation	<b>Hematologist</b>	<b>Pediatric Hematologist</b>
Years in current practice	20	3
Type of practice	Clinical Hematology	Academic
Division of time	50% clinical, 20% administration, 15% research, 15% teaching,	80% clinical, 15% research, 5% administrative
Family status	Separated, with 2 children	Single

### About the job

Occupation	<b>Hematologist</b>	<b>Pediatric Hematologist</b>
Average hours per week	50	50–80
Three most common complaints	Doctor complaints: Not enough time to devote to the academics, shortage of hematologists to share the load, expensive drugs which are hard for patients to access	Patient complaints: Deep vein thrombosis, arterial thrombosis, stroke
Adequately paid?	Yes	No
Like the most?	The patients	Research Opportunities
Want to improve?	Want to recruit more hematologists to share the load	Implementation of ideas

### About your life

Occupation	<b>Hematologist</b>	<b>Pediatric Hematologist</b>
In your spare time?	Reading, arts, family	Sports
Does family life ever suffer?	Yes	Yes
Job satisfaction (1–10)	8	6
One-sentence summary	Love clinical hematology, wonderful mix of patients, exciting new therapies.	Time consuming

## Internal Medicine Infectious Disease

### About you

Occupation	Infectious Diseases/Internist	Tropical Disease Medicine	Infectious Disease Specialist
Years in current practice	8	30	5
Type of practice	Academic	Academic hospital based	Clinician Scientist
Division of time	33% clinical, 33% teaching/education, 33% admin	70% clinical, 20% teaching, 10% e-mail	80% research, 20% clinical
Family status	Married, with 3 children	Divorced, with 5 grown children	Married, with 2 kids

### About the job

Occupation	Infectious Diseases/Internist	Tropical Disease Medicine	Infectious Disease Specialist
Average hours per week	50	70	55
Three most common complaints	Fever, abnormal test result (e.g., high WBC count), shortness of breath	Travelers' diarrhea, skin problems, fever in the returned traveler	HIV, STDs, pneumonia
Adequately paid?	Yes	Yes; not a great pension	Could be better
Like the most?	Variety	The patients, the clinical challenges; teaching, the variety of tasks; opportunity to travel and work in the developing world.	Doing self-directed research
Want to improve?	The efficiency of the system, so that I spend less time gathering info, and more time helping patients	More appreciation for the hours spent and recognition for excellence in teaching	Research doesn't pay as much as clinical work.

### About your life

Occupation	Infectious Diseases/Internist	Tropical Disease Medicine	Infectious Disease Specialist
In your spare time?	Family time, exercise, reading, tech-related stuff	Movies, rollerblading, skiing.	Travel, kids, sports
Does family life ever suffer?	Minimally	Yes, definitely. An academic life has many challenges and expectations; finding balance early in one's career in spite of academic pressures is the most important determinants for a successful family life.	No
Job satisfaction (1–10) One-sentence summary	9 I spend most of my days being a detective and teaching others to be a detective.	9 An amazing, wonderful, satisfying, rewarding, exciting career that I would re-do (with a little more balance) in a heart beat	9 Love being a clinician scientist, but income tends to suffer.

## Internal Medicine Nephrology

### About you

Occupation	Nephrologist	Nephrologist
Years in current practice	12	15
Type of practice	Academic mix of Transplantation and General Nephrology	Full-time academic
Division of time	40% Transplantation 20% General Nephrology 40% research	90% between clinical, research and teaching 10% administration
Family status	Married, with kids	Married, with children

### About the job

Occupation	Nephrologist	Nephrologist
Average hours per week	60	80
Three most common complaints	Decreased Kidney function, protein or blood in urine, electrolyte imbalance	Uncontrolled hypertension or progressive kidney disease or both
Adequately paid?	Yes	Yes
Like the most?	Long-term relationships with patients; challenging diseases spanning electrolytes, endocrinology, immunology; treatment approaches generally available	Ability to make a difference, multifaceted practice including peer-reviewed research and teaching
Want to improve?	Availability of nursing support — nurse clinicians/nurse practitioners	Mostly care models and better governance at the hospital and university level

### About your life

Occupation	<b>Nephrologist</b>	<b>Nephrologist</b>
In your spare time?	Skiing, travel, sailing, attending kids, activities	Family time, sports and more family time.
Does family life ever suffer?	Inevitably yes, but with careful juggling and will to exploit opportunities, e.g., bring family on conferences, works fine	A little
Job satisfaction (1–10)	9	10
One-sentence summary	Overall, a mix is critical to avoid having work life become stale.	I have been fortunate to work in one of the best job descriptions together with my colleagues.

## Internal Medicine Respiriology

### About you

Occupation	<b>Respirologist</b>	<b>Pediatric Respirologist</b>
Years in current practice	30	32
Type of practice	Teaching-based hospital	Pediatric respiratory medicine
Division of time	Clinical and teaching, with some research	70% admin, 20% research, 20% education
Family status	Married grandfather	Re-married, with two children

### About the job

Occupation	<b>Respirologist</b>	<b>Pediatric Respirologist</b>
Average hours per week	80	60 (not counting call)
Three most common complaints	SOB, cough, abnormal chest X-Ray	—
Adequately paid?	Yes	Yes
Like the most?	Patients and students	Developing young clinician-scientists and teaching respiratory medicine fellow
Want to improve?	Quality of hospital care	Increase funding for research of young faculty

### About your life

Occupation	<b>Respirologist</b>	<b>Pediatric Respirologist</b>
In your spare time?	Family, music	Running
Does family life ever suffer?	No	#1 priority is family; #2 priority is career; #3 priority is social (i.e., have to be happy at work to be happy at home and you have to be happy at home to be happy at work)
Job satisfaction (1–10)	9	9
One-sentence summary	Rewarding	Work hard, be dedicated, be honest with yourself as to what you want to do (i.e., When you wake up at night do you want to do it?) and find three role models (in academics or private practice) who you would like to “grow up to be like” and learn from them and their advice (throw some of it out and keep some of it).

## Internal Medicine Rheumatology

### About you

Occupation	<b>Rheumatologist</b>
Years in current practice	25
Type of practice	Teaching-based hospital
Division of time	50% clinical, 10% admin, 20% research
Family status	Divorced

### About the job

Occupation	<b>Rheumatologist</b>
Average hours per week	70
Three most common complaints	RA, PSA, AS
Adequately paid?	No
Like the most?	Creative aspects of teaching
Want to improve?	Do more of what I enjoy — research and teaching

### About your life

Occupation	<b>Rheumatologist</b>
In your spare time?	Reading, travel, theatre
Does family life ever suffer?	Yes
Job satisfaction (1–10)	5
One-sentence summary	Totally consuming career and very poor lifestyle

## Internal Medicine Occupational Medicine

### About you

	<b>Occupational Health Physician</b>	<b>Medical Consultant</b>	<b>Professor/Clinical</b>	<b>Resident, U of T</b>
Occupation				
Years in current practice	18	19	14	0
Type of practice	Independent	Research, teaching, consultant	Teaching, clinic, consulting	—
Division of time	100% clinical	50–75%	1–25%	1–25%
Family status	Married, two children	Married, children	Married, three children	Married

### About the job

	<b>Occupational Health Physician</b>	<b>Medical Consultant</b>	<b>Professor/Clinical</b>	<b>Resident, U of T</b>
Occupation				
Average hours per week	50	51–70	51–70	35–50
Three most common complaints	Doctor complaints: 1) Very political 2) Involves medicolegal risk 3) No job security	Doctor complaints: 1) Renumeration may be lower than private practice	Patient complaints: 1) Inhalational exposures 2) MSK rehab & return to work planning 3) Toxicology	—
Adequately paid?	Remuneration generally reasonable	Yes and no	Yes	Yes
Like the most?	Interaction with non-medical personnel	Interesting; research; prevention; linking of clinical and epidemiology	Diversity, scope; need help with the teaching load; more persons working in occupational health	Highly flexible to career interests; a better centralized organization
Want to improve?	Raise the stature of the profession	—	—	—

### About your life

	<b>Occupational Health Physician</b>	<b>Medical Consultant</b>	<b>Professor/Clinical</b>	<b>Resident, U of T</b>
Occupation				
In your spare time?	Coach sports teams	Jog, tennis, biking, travel	Family, reading, walking dog, photography	Travelling
Does family life ever suffer?	Rarely	Rarely	Sometimes	Never
Job satisfaction (1–10)	8	8	8	8
One-sentence summary	A career for those who enjoy business.	—	—	—

## Internal Medicine Occupational Medicine

### About you

Occupation	<b>Occupational &amp; Environmental Medicine Specialist</b>	<b>Occupational Medicine Specialist</b>	<b>Occupational Medicine Specialist and Consultant, Flight Surgeon, Civil Aviation Medical Examiner, Assistant Professor</b>	<b>Occupational physician, Director of an Occupational and Environmental Health Clinic, Public Health Department</b>
Years in Current Practice	2	9	7	20
Type of Practice	Hospital Based Occ Med Clinics 30%, Third Party (IMEs, Surveillance) 20%, Academic 10% Consulting for Industry 40%	Private sector consulting	Mixed academic (teaching, research) and consulting	Clinical practice in an University Health Center, Teaching in occupational Health, Medical advisor in Public Health
Division of Time/Time in research	10%	No research at present (option exists, though)	Variable from week to week, and month to month with frequent travel	Time in research 1/10
Family Status	Married, two children	Single	Married, 2 children	Married

### About the job

Average hours per week	40	30-40	40-60	45 h/week
Three most common clinical complaints	1. Solvent and heavy metal exposure/toxicity 2. Causation analysis 3. RTW issues/ accommodation	1. MSK (pain, instability) 2. PSYCH (mood disorders, psychotic disorders, anxiety disorders) 3. Other (ENDO, CARDIORESP, DERM, especially) NOTE: These complaints occur in the context of determining a person's fitness to work, the key questions of which are: 1. Can the person work? 2. If the person can work, are functional restrictions necessary (ie. limit lifting) in the workplace.	Alcohol and drug, psychiatric, musculoskeletal	Toxicological related health problems, Mental health, MSK
Adequately Paid	Yes	Yes, very much so.	Varies with employer, I accept some lower paying contracts if they are interesting, unique, or enjoyable	Not really
What do you like the most about the career	Diversity of work, patient population (interesting, diverse and generally healthy)	1. Lifestyle 2. Career flexibility (hours, employment options) 3. Remuneration	Can't name just one thing... Representing Canada internationally particularly in my role with the Canadian Space Agency; contributing to large multi-centre projects which impact both space and terrestrial medicine; teaching and mentoring students both in Canada and abroad; driving new innovative approaches to policy and translating evidence from one field to another	Very challenging career No routine Combine clinical practice and teaching
What do you want to improve?	Increase protected time for more research	Visibility of profession (this is naturally improving, though)	Access to aerospace medicine training in Canada	Training program Promotion of occupational practice

### About your life

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?	Spending time with family, skiing, golf, gardening, travel	1. Tennis 2. Furthering my education 3. Music	Outdoor activities such as canoeing at the cottage, bike riding, artistic endeavours like interior design, participating in my children's sports and music programs. I spend a large amount of free time serving on various committees and Boards of Directors	Canoe Trekking
Does your family life ever suffer as a result of your career?	No	No	I am usually away from home at least once a month, sometimes longer so we hire help with housekeeping. I sometimes miss school events, but to balance things I try to bring the children when I travel to interesting places eg Europe, Japan	No
Job satisfaction (1-10; 10 being the best job in the world)	8.5/10	8.5	Probably 9 or 10.	9/10
One Sentence Summary	Extremely interesting, lucrative and diverse specialty with lots of opportunity to work in a variety of areas of clinical and academic practice.	A great specialty because of its options, remuneration, flexibility, and inherently interesting content.	My career has allowed me to be involved in collaborative interdisciplinary work that incorporates the commonalities between occupational medicine, aerospace medicine, and engineering, as well as innovative new technologies such as telemedicine and simulation, in order to enable the provision of exemplary medical care and programming.	Enjoyable career

## Internal Medicine Occupational Medicine

### About you

Occupation	<b>Occupational &amp; Medicine Specialist at Large</b>	<b>Occupational Medicine Specialist</b>		<b>Medical Director</b>
Years in Current Practice	12	7	10	12
Type of Practice	Independent consult to industry and medical assessments for legal cases. Approximately 50% of my time is clinical 10% academic, 40% administrative	Government (consultant, research, teaching, clinical)	Mixed academic (teaching, research) and consulting	Consulting, academic
Division of Time/Time in research	I spend about 5-10% on research	Variable; approx 80-90% consultant/research; and 10-20% teaching/clinical)	Consulting 90%, research 10%	75/25
Family Status	Married	Married, 3 children	Married	Married

### About the job

Average hours per week	40hrs	40	50-60	40
Three most common clinical complaints	Musculoskeletal Dermatology Mental health	Health protection, toxicology, medical surveillance	Respiratory, dermatology, toxicology, IAQ and environmental issues	musculoskeletal pain, psychological distress, causation of disease (eg cancer, COPD)
Adequately Paid	Comparable to the OMA rates without significant overhead costs	Yes (but I wouldn't turn down a raise), plus pension and benefits	Yes	Yes
What do you like the most about the career	Independence to structure my practice and work schedule. Remuneration is high. Stimulating and challenging work.)	Broad-based (ie a challenging mix of medicine, industrial hygiene, toxicology, epidemiology, research, teaching, advocacy, risk communication), unique issues and opportunities.	The variability, the diagnostic challenges, workplace assessments	Variety, challenge
What do you want to improve?	Increase the visibility of the program at the entrant level – my colleagues in other disciplines envy my work/life balance and are disappointed that they did not consider it.	More interaction with other Occ Med specialists (depending on where you practice, you may be “out on your own” somewhat)	Increase awareness of what the specialty has to offer	Nothing

### About your life

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?	Entertaining at my cottage, international travel, windsurfing.	Family, fitness (hockey, jogging, weight training, cycling); Canadian Forces Reservist; coaching children's sports teams; reading; photography.	sailing	Family activities, gardening
Does your family life ever suffer as a result of your career?	At times the workload can be over whelming so on occasion I have had to learn to cut back on my commitments, but there is no call or mandatory overtime so I think on the whole I would describe the impact on family life as minimal.	No	No	Work commitments occasionally interfere with vacation plans
Job satisfaction (1-10; 10 being the best job in the world)	9	9	9	9
One Sentence Summary	Occupational medicine offers a rewarding career with a rich set of practice options that remunerates well and provides excellent opportunity for work-life balance.	A great career path for those who: a) are “big-picture” thinkers, b) enjoy “cognitive diversity”, and c) are passionate about preventing illness/injury rather than just treating it.	Diagnosing diseases other physicians are unaware of	Great job, great career path.

## Laboratory Medicine Anatomical Pathology

### About you

Occupation	<b>Skin Pathologist</b>	<b>Endocrine Pathologist</b>
Years in current practice	10	22
Type of practice	Academic	Academic
Division of time	80% service, 20% research	30% service, 20% administration, 50% research
Family status	Married, with 2 children	Married, with 4 children

### About the job

Occupation	<b>Skin Pathologist</b>	<b>Endocrine Pathologist</b>
Average hours per week	60–80	60–80
Three most common complaints	Timely reports, longer time for ordering consult by treating physician.	Bureaucracy gets in the way, sometimes too repetitive, lack of good clinical information results in waste of time chasing others.
Adequately paid?	No	Yes
Like the most?	It bridges between clinical parameters and science (translational research, clinical research, and basic research). There is an open field for academia and research.	Very exciting to be on the cutting edge of implementing new science into medicine.
Want to improve?	More subspecialized pathologists. More recognition by other physicians. More pay/compensation. More time for research. More fellowship programs.	Clinical profile of Pathologists as physicians.

### About your life

Occupation	<b>Skin Pathologist</b>	<b>Endocrine Pathologist</b>
In your spare time?	Spending time with my family.	Sports, music, home renovation, travel.
Does family life ever suffer?	Better now with seniority.	Not significantly.
Job satisfaction (1–10)	7	9.5
One-sentence summary	Still good but could be improved much better.	—

## Laboratory Medicine General Pathology

### About you

Occupation	<b>Pathologist</b>
Years in current practice	20
Type of practice	Urban and suburban
Division of time	100% clinical
Family status	Married, three children

### About the job

Occupation	<b>Pathologist</b>
Average hours per week	50
Three most common complaints	None. I love my job.
Adequately paid?	Yes
Like the most?	The variability—you learn something new every day.
Want to improve?	Nothing

### About your life

Occupation	<b>Pathologist</b>
In your spare time?	Watch T.V., travel, socialize
Does family life ever suffer?	Rarely
Job satisfaction (1–10)	8–9
One-sentence summary	This is a specialty for people who like to read and learn new things. It is an ongoing learning process.

## Laboratory Medicine Hematological Pathology

### About you

Occupation	<b>Hematopathologist</b>	<b>Hematopathologist</b>
Years in current practice	4	18
Type of practice	Hospital	Academic, hospital based
Division of time	60% service/20% teaching/20% research	50% clinical, 40% administrative, 5% teaching, 5% research
Family status	Married, with 2 children	Married, with 2 children

### About the job

Occupation	<b>Hematopathologist</b>	<b>Hematopathologist</b>
Average hours per week	40–60	60–80
Three most common complaints	Doctor complaints: Not sure if I would enjoy my job as much if I did just Pathology and did not still do some clinical patient work.	Patient complaints: Timely reports, management of bleeding, new leukemias/lymphomas
Adequately paid?	Yes	Yes
Like the most?	Challenging cases. Diverse field (i.e., blood films, bone marrows, hemoglobin electrophoresis, blood bank, coagulation testing, clinical lab). Good lifestyle.	The intellectual challenges of a highly specialized area and teaching.
Want to improve?	—	—

### About your life

Occupation	<b>Hematopathologist</b>	<b>Hematopathologist</b>
In your spare time?	Being with family, sports, music.	Reading (including newspaper for current news and world affairs), traveling.
Does family life ever suffer?	Rarely.	It did occasionally when the children were younger.
Job satisfaction (1–10)	8	10
One-sentence summary	I love the job.	I would do it all over again—with greater intensity.

## Laboratory Medicine Medical Microbiology

### About you

Occupation	<b>Medical Microbiologist/ Infectious Disease Specialist</b>
Years in current practice	5
Type of practice	Academic
Division of time	Research (30%), management (50%), clinical (20%)
Family status	Married, with 2 kids

### About the job

Occupation	<b>Medical Microbiologist/ Infectious Disease Specialist</b>
Average hours per week	50
Three most common complaints	Antimicrobial resistance, fever not yet diagnosed, hospital-acquired pneumonia
Adequately paid?	Yes
Like the most?	Mixed research/management/clinical responsibilities keeps things interesting, never a dull moment
Want to improve?	Nothing at this point

### About your life

Occupation	<b>Medical Microbiologist/ Infectious Disease Specialist</b>
In your spare time?	Backpacking, canoeing, going up to the cottage
Does family life ever suffer?	Not significantly
Job satisfaction (1–10)	9
One-sentence summary	Great field of medicine!

## Laboratory Medicine **Neuropathology**

### About you

Occupation	<b>Neuropathologist</b>	<b>Neuropathologist</b>
Years in current practice	1.5	1.5
Type of practice	Hospital/Group	Hospital
Division of time	—	50% practice, 50% research
Family status	Single	Married, with 2 children

### About the job

Occupation	<b>Neuropathologist</b>	<b>Neuropathologist</b>
Average hours per week	60–80	60–80
Three most common complaints	Neuro-oncologic	N/A
Adequately paid?	Yes	Yes
Like the most?	Great team and flexibility to do research.	Opportunity to blend medical practice with research.
Want to improve?	Reduce time spent on clinical work vs. research	Amount of research in Neuropathology.

### About your life

Occupation	<b>Neuropathologist</b>	<b>Neuropathologist</b>
In your spare time?	I relax and drink fine wine.	Home renovation.
Does family life ever suffer?	Yes	Yes
Job satisfaction (1–10)	7	10
One-sentence summary	Great job but too many little things to keep track of. Would rather do fewer items at high volume (e.g., not four different teaching conferences but one, more frequently)	I love what I do.

## Medical Genetics

### About you

Occupation	<b>Medical Geneticist</b>	<b>Clinical Geneticist</b>
Years in current practice	4	3
Type of practice	Urban, >20 days per year	Academic, >20 days per year
Division of time	1–25%	1–25%
Family status	Married, with children	Single, no children

### About the job

Occupation	<b>Medical Geneticist</b>	<b>Clinical Geneticist</b>
Average hours per week	35–50	51–70
Three most common complaints	1) Inadequate staffing across the country 2) Busy clinical practice in the context of an academic centre; can make it difficult to meet academic/research demands 3) The current billing schedule does not permit a Medical Geneticist to build up an independent practice if they wish	—
Three most common symptoms reported	—	1) Developmental delay; multiple congenital anomalies
Adequately paid?	Discrepancy in pay between the centres, thus difficult to answer this question	No
Like the most?	—	—
Want to improve?	Many of the things that would like to change are not specific to the practice of Genetics, but apply to being a clinician in an academic centre	Better support (staff, computers)

### About your life

Occupation	<b>Medical Geneticist</b>	<b>Clinical Geneticist</b>
In your spare time?	Spend with children	Sailing, listening to opera
Does family life ever suffer?	Rarely	Sometimes
Job satisfaction (1–10)	7 to 8	7.5
One-sentence summary	Medical genetics can be very stimulating and rewarding specialty because of the wide variety of cases, ample opportunity for research, and flexible lifestyle.	Clinical genetics is a fascinating field that allows you to see interesting patients with their families, while actively participating in research, and therefore it never gets boring.

## Neurology

### About you

Occupation	<b>Clinical Neurologist and Neuroscientist; Professor of Medicine (Neurology), Psychiatry, and Behavioural Neuroscience</b>	<b>Pediatric Neurologist</b>	<b>Pediatric Neurologist</b>
Years in current practice	19	25	4
Type of practice	Urban: 30% clinical (teaching clinics) 30% teaching 40% research and administration	Teach >20 days per year, urban	Teach >20 days per year, urban
Division of time	As above	1–25%	25–50%
Family status	Married, three children	Married, no children	Married, children

### About the job

Occupation	<b>Clinical Neurologist and Neuroscientist; Professor of Medicine (Neurology), Psychiatry, and Behavioural Neuroscience</b>	<b>Pediatric Neurologist</b>	<b>Pediatric Neurologist</b>
Average hours per week	60	51–70	51–70
Three most common symptoms reported by your patients	—	1) Developmental delay 2) Epilepsy 3) Headache	1) Myopathy 2) Multiple sclerosis 3) Developmental delay
Adequately paid?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Like the most?	Contact with students	Working with children	Diversity of patient issues, and clinical research
Want to improve?	N/A	Better hours	More time for reading

### About your life

Occupation	<b>Clinical Neurologist and Neuroscientist; Professor of Medicine (Neurology), Psychiatry, and Behavioural Neuroscience</b>	<b>Pediatric Neurologist</b>	<b>Pediatric Neurologist</b>
In your spare time?	Read; dining with family	Raise horses	Exercise, family activities
Does family life ever suffer?	Rarely	Sometimes	Sometimes
Job satisfaction (1–10)	10	8	8
One-sentence summary	Terrific career for those who are self-starters and who enjoy independence.	Intellectual challenge of studying the nervous system with the privilege of working with children.	Pediatric neurology is demanding, but highly rewarding.

## Nuclear Medicine

### About you

Occupation	<b>Nuclear Medicine</b>
Years in current practice	21
Type of practice	Academic, hospital based
Division of time	—
Family status	Married, with 2 grown children

### About the job

Occupation	<b>Nuclear Medicine</b>
Average hours per week	55
Three most common complaints	Cancer, heart disease, CNS disorders
Adequately paid?	Yes
Like the most?	Variety, changing technology.
Want to improve?	Funding to update equipment

### About your life

Occupation	<b>Nuclear Medicine</b>
In your spare time?	Spending time with family, walking, movies, cooking
Does family life ever suffer?	When my kids were younger I had trouble balancing career with family
Job satisfaction (1–10)	8
One-sentence summary	After 28 years in the field I am very satisfied.

## Obstetrics and Gynecology

### About you

Occupation	<b>Gynaecologic Oncologist</b>	<b>Reproductive Endocrinology and Fertility</b>
Years in current practice	60	30 clinical, 20 other
Type of practice	Academic Hospital based	Academic, group practice
Division of time	Clinic 80%, Education/Research 20%	60% clinical, 30% administration, 20% research
Family status	Married, with 2 children	Married, with 4 children

### About the job

Occupation	<b>Gynaecologic Oncologist</b>	<b>Reproductive Endocrinology and Fertility</b>
Average hours per week	35–50	51–70
Three most common symptoms reported by your patients	N/A	Infertility: irregular menses, male factor, unexplained
Adequately paid?	Yes—well remunerated for clinical and non-clinic work due to alternate payment plan	Yes
Like the most?	Direct patient care is very rewarding; great variety (surgery, chemo, palliative care)	The patient, the residents, the variety of procedures
Want to improve?	Access to care	I wish there were more answers to the questions

### About your life

Occupation	<b>Gynaecologic Oncologist</b>	<b>Reproductive Endocrinology and Fertility</b>
In your spare time?	Computers, video games, music	Reading, running
Does family life ever suffer?	Did some during training, now very manageable	No
Job satisfaction (1–10)	8	8.5
One-sentence summary	I'm doing what I've always wanted to do and I'm making a difference!	I am very satisfied with my career choice.

# Ophthalmology

## About you

Occupation	Ophthalmologist	Ophthalmologist	Ophthalmologist	Ophthalmologist
Years in current practice	20	14	6	17
Type of practice	Urban/tertiary care teaching centre. Mainly private solo practice, with 30% administrative, teaching and clinic duties.	Urban, >20 days of teaching	Urban, >20 days of teaching	Urban, >20 days of teaching
Division of time	Clinical 70%; administrative, teaching, research 30%	1–25%	25–50%	None
Family status	Married, two children	Married, children	Married, children	Married, children

## About the job

Occupation	Ophthalmologist	Ophthalmologist	Ophthalmologist	Ophthalmologist
Average hours per week	50–60	71–100	51–70	35–50
Three most common complaints	1) On-call duties at a multisite facility & regional transfer centre are busier, more complex, and more onerous than community hospitals 2) Lack of adequate OR time/wait lists 3) Battles with hospital administration over resources—difficult leadership in a resource-constrained environment—and time commitments for never-ending meetings	—	—	—
Three most common symptoms reported by your patients	—	1) Visual loss 2) Metamorphopsia	1) Uncontrolled glaucoma 2) Dense cataract 3) Glaucoma	1) Cataract
Adequately paid?	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Like the most?	Challenges of patient care in my subspecialty work, and eye surgery—delicate, exacting, and rewarding. Never dull or routine. I enjoy what I do and am constantly improving and modifying my practice as new technology evolves.	Patient satisfaction	Surgical variety, bench-to-bedside research, vision, preservation and restoration, improving quality life for patients, surgical challenges	Positive satisfaction from treatment, teaching residents
Want to improve?	I will back away from the leadership role and free up more personal time in a few years	The hours worked	Additional protected time for research	Inability to control OR time

## About your life

Occupation	Ophthalmologist	Ophthalmologist	Ophthalmologist	Ophthalmologist
In your spare time?	Organizer for community charity events, fitness centre on regular basis, family and friends	Raise children	Activities with children, mainly	Ski, golf, hike
Does family life ever suffer?	Occasionally	Sometimes	Rarely	Sometimes
Job satisfaction (1–10)	9	Money: 5, lifestyle: 5, job: 10 = 7 overall	10	8
One-sentence summary	Ophthalmology is an incredibly rewarding career—opportunity to create your own niche by varying the mix of medical care, surgical care, a broad range of subspecialty choices, and an exciting array of new technologies and treatment options.	High level of satisfaction, if you can get over the politics.	A unique career opportunity that combines surgery with medicine, direct visualization of ocular pathology, patient satisfaction, potential for new discoveries, and a balanced lifestyle.	Interesting, varied, changing specialty, which can be very rewarding.

## Orthopedic Surgery

### About you

	<b>Orthopedic Spine and Trauma Surgeon</b>	<b>Orthopedic Surgeon</b>	<b>Orthopedic Surgeon Specializing in Musculoskeletal Oncology</b>
Occupation			
Years in current practice	18	5.5	12
Type of practice	Academic hospital	Academic	Academic
Division of time	70% clinical, 20% teaching, 10% research and admin	75% clinical, 10% research, 15% teaching	60% clinical, 20% research, 10% administration, 10% education
Family status	Separated, 2 children age 14 and 16	Married, with 2 children	Married, with 2 children

### About the job

	<b>Orthopedic Spine and Trauma Surgeon</b>	<b>Orthopedic Surgeon</b>	<b>Orthopedic Surgeon Specializing in Musculoskeletal Oncology</b>
Occupation			
Average hours per week	50–60	60	60 hours at the hospital, some on call, some clinical and research work at home evenings and weekends
Three most common symptoms reported by your patients	Not answered	Bone tumor, soft tissue tumor, metastatic bone disease	N/A
Adequately paid?	Spine work yes, trauma no	No	Yes
Like the most?	The challenge of spine deformity work	Wide variety of clinical problems, different anatomic regions, working with trainees	Fantastic job. Great pathology. Interesting clinical problems. Multidisciplinary with medical and radiation oncology, molecular pathology, musculoskeletal imaging. Lots of great transnational research, much of which leading to improvements in patient care and outcomes. This research allows for amazing traveling opportunities. Interacting with students, residents, and fellows means constant teaching and questioning—keeps things moving forward. Great opportunities to make major impact on patients' lives.
Want to improve?	Beds, OR time and implant budget	Better remuneration	Nothing. Great balance between work and academics as well as home/family/personal

### About your life

	<b>Orthopedic Spine and Trauma Surgeon</b>	<b>Orthopedic Surgeon</b>	<b>Orthopedic Surgeon Specializing in Musculoskeletal Oncology</b>
Occupation			
In your spare time?	Golf, skiing, mountain biking	Golf, hockey, photography, movies, spending time with my family	Hockey, water and snow skiing, bike riding and running. Spending time with my kids, family and friends
Does family life ever suffer?	It has	Mildly	Depends on how you look at it. I'm clearly not home all the time but really not so much different that many friends and associates who are professionals in other realms. The balance is doable. The rewards of the profession and my job in particular are well worth some time sacrifice.
Job satisfaction (1–10)	9	8	10
One-sentence summary	Wouldn't want to do anything else...would be a 10 with the right resources.	Excellent job, quite stressful at times and remuneration could be better, otherwise entirely satisfied.	Wouldn't change what I do if I won the lottery.

## Otolaryngology

### About you

	<b>Head and Neck Surgeon</b>	<b>Pediatric Otolaryngologist</b>	<b>Facial Plastic Surgeon, Director of Facial Plastic Surgery</b>	<b>Pediatric Otolaryngologist</b>
Occupation				
Years in current practice	25	2.5	31	7
Type of practice	Urban	Urban	Urban and community hospital; mainly private, solo practice with minimal reaching responsibilities	Urban, >20 days/year dedicated to teaching
Division of time	80% clinical, 20% academic	95% clinical, 5% teaching	90% clinical, 10% teaching and research	1–25%
Family status	Married, children	Married, children	Married, 5 children	Married, children

### About the job

	<b>Head and Neck Surgeon</b>	<b>Pediatric Otolaryngologist</b>	<b>Facial Plastic Surgeon, Director of Facial Plastic Surgery</b>	<b>Pediatric Otolaryngologist</b>
Occupation				
Average hours per week	70–80	50–70	70	51–70
Three most common complaints	1) Very demanding hours	1) Demanding on-call schedule	1) Inadequate hospital support for emergency and elective treatment	—
Three most common symptoms reported by your patients	—	—	—	1) Deafness 2) Cholesteotomas
Adequately paid?	No	No	OHIP component—grossly, grossly underpaid	No
Like the most?	Interesting field with a variety of disciplines and patients	Variety the career offers	It is a well-balanced medical and surgical specialty	Caring for children's family
Want to improve?	Better hours	Less busy call	To bring up the conditions in hospitals to the world standards in developed countries.	More time at home

### About your life

	<b>Head and Neck Surgeon</b>	<b>Pediatric Otolaryngologist</b>	<b>Facial Plastic Surgeon, Director of Facial Plastic Surgery</b>	<b>Pediatric Otolaryngologist</b>
Occupation				
In your spare time?	Travelling, family events, golf	Golf, family events	N/A, other than during holiday time during which I ski, swim, and enjoy outdoor recreations	Rest
Does family life ever suffer?	Often	Sometimes	Always	Often
Job satisfaction (1–10)	10	7	8	5
One-sentence summary	An interesting and demanding career that combines clinical medicine and surgery.	A field that mixes surgery with medicine and may deal with a variety of patient populations.	This is a specialty demanding thorough scientific preparation, a high level of manual skill and artistic talent, and significant patience in dealing with psychological issues.	—

## Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

### About you

	Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	Physiatrist	Physiatrist	Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
Occupation					
Years in current practice	25	23	4	4	7
Type of practice	Free-standing rehab facility/university	University health network 100%, full-time professor	Urban practice, teaching >20 days per year	Neurorehabilitation, urban practice, teaching >20 days per year	Urban practice, teaching >20 days per year
Division of time	70% clinical, 15% teaching, 15% research and administration	50–60% clinical, 20–30% research/teaching, 10% administrative	25–50%	1–25%	25–50%
Family status	Married, children	Married, children	Married	Married	Married, children

### About the job

	Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	Physiatrist	Physiatrist	Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
Occupation					
Average hours per week	50–60	50–60	51–70	N/A	51–70
Three most common complaints	—	1) Lack of successors as academic careers are not lucrative.	1) Lots of paperwork 2) Too much to do 3) Going to court as an expert witness	—	—
Three most common symptoms reported by your patients	—	—	—	1) Spinal cord injury (tetra/paraplegia, spasticity, pain) 2) MS (fatigue, weakness) 3) ALS (weakness, swallowing, and respiratory dysfunction)	1) Cognitive impairment 2) Post-concussion syndrome 3) Behavioural impairment
Adequately paid?	Yes	From an academic viewpoint, no; however, medicolegal is adequately paid	Yes	Yes	Yes
Like the most?	It's fun and interesting	Tremendous amount of versatility and multiple skills that allowed me to take my career to very high levels, whatever aspect I wanted to pursue	Getting to know patients well by following them longitudinally through a very difficult time in their lives	Variety—functional/quality of life approach to management of diverse neurological conditions	Variety with clinical and research
Want to improve?	—	Bureaucracy in health services, academic institutions, etc. has grown, restricting my ability to provide care	Less paperwork	More support for rehabilitation technologies; less paperwork to insurance companies	To have all inpatient beds located at one site; to remove need to travel between sites

## About your life

Occupation	Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	Physiatrist	Physiatrist	Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
In your spare time?	Snowmobiling, cottage	Tae kwon do, kung fu, weight training, motorcycle riding, writing, singing, dancing	Sailing, gardening, entertaining	Play basketball, kayak, ski, international volunteer medical work, volunteer on numerous provincial and national boards/committees	Parent, coach children's soccer and hockey, run marathons and distance races
Does family life ever suffer?	Rarely	Sometimes	Rarely	Sometimes	Sometimes
Job satisfaction (1–10)	9	8	8	8	8
One-sentence summary	A career that is great for people who want a career that is fun, interesting, and one where you can change your focus of interest at any time.	PM&R is the most versatile medical subspecialty I can think of; it provides in-depth neuro-musculoskeletal training, as well as general medical knowledge and insight into psychiatric/psychological domain and understanding of disability.	Great for people who like to have a broad approach to medical issues, team work, continuity of care, complex problems.	PM&R allows you as a doctor to make a positive impact on quality of life for persons with disability, and their families, through holistic and interdisciplinary medical management.	Predictable hours, patient contact and great team environment to work in.

# Psychiatry

## About you

	<b>Psychiatrist</b>	<b>Psychiatrist</b>	<b>Psychiatrist (Clinician Scientist)</b>	<b>Psychiatrist (Genetics Researcher)</b>	<b>Emergency Psychiatrist, Medical Education</b>
Occupation	<b>Psychiatrist</b>	<b>Psychiatrist</b>	<b>Psychiatrist (Clinician Scientist)</b>	<b>Psychiatrist (Genetics Researcher)</b>	<b>Emergency Psychiatrist, Medical Education</b>
Years in current practice	33	27	11	5	13
Type of practice	Community	Urban	Urban practice; teach students/residents/fellows >20 days per year	Urban practice; teach students/residents/fellows >20 days per year	Urban practice; teach students/residents/fellows >20 days per year
Division of time	100% clinical	70% clinical, 30% academic	75–100%	75–100%	1–25%
Family status	Married, children	Married, children	Married/partner, children	Married/partner	Single

## About the job

	<b>Psychiatrist</b>	<b>Psychiatrist</b>	<b>Psychiatrist (Clinician Scientist)</b>	<b>Psychiatrist (Genetics Researcher)</b>	<b>Emergency Psychiatrist, Medical Education</b>
Occupation	<b>Psychiatrist</b>	<b>Psychiatrist</b>	<b>Psychiatrist (Clinician Scientist)</b>	<b>Psychiatrist (Genetics Researcher)</b>	<b>Emergency Psychiatrist, Medical Education</b>
Average hours per week	70–80	40–50	51–70	51–70	51–70
Three most common complaints	1) Often no cure for disease 2) Can be frustrating	1) Shortage of services	—	—	—
Three most common symptoms reported by your patients	—	—	1) Schizophrenia 2) Psychotic disorders 3) Drug side effects	1) Schizophrenia 2) Psychosis 3) Cognitive impairment	1) Suicide 2) Depression 3) Psychosis
Adequately paid?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	—
Like the most?	Great lifestyle	Variety of patients and opportunities	Research, novelty, always changing; the students keep me young, the discoveries keep me excited; very supportive colleagues; recognition of the fact that this research makes a difference	Flexibility, control over time, pursuits as a researcher	Variety, stimulation, drama, intellectual curiosity
Want to improve?	More manpower and funding	More funding to improve quality of services for psychiatric patients	Nothing really; it has its challenges, but not disproportionately so	Increase funding for research	Have fewer meetings

## About your life

	<b>Psychiatrist</b>	<b>Psychiatrist</b>	<b>Psychiatrist (Clinician Scientist)</b>	<b>Psychiatrist (Genetics researcher)</b>	<b>Emergency Psychiatrist, Medical Education</b>
Occupation	<b>Psychiatrist</b>	<b>Psychiatrist</b>	<b>Psychiatrist (Clinician Scientist)</b>	<b>Psychiatrist (Genetics researcher)</b>	<b>Emergency Psychiatrist, Medical Education</b>
In your spare time?	Spend time with family	Movies, readings, family events	Sail, cook, read, raise children	Nightclubs, music, photography, read, travel, party	Travel, film
Does family life ever suffer?	Sometimes	Sometimes	Sometimes	Rarely	Sometimes
Job satisfaction (1–10)	8	8	9	9	8
One-sentence summary	A career that is great for people who enjoy an accommodating lifestyle.	In most cases, psychiatry allows me to help improve the lives of people suffering from a variety of issues.	The clinical neurosciences in psychiatry is at its pivotal junction with the advent of genomics and neuroimaging; we are where the space program was in the 1960s—don't miss out on it.	My practice is not really typical of psychiatrists since I mostly do research; basically, I didn't enjoy constant clinical work, and the lack of knowledge about the diseases I was treating motivated me towards basic disease-mechanism research.	Psychiatry adds depth to medicine in the understanding of people and their illnesses. We treat the whole person, not just a symptom or bodily system. It is a great honour to be allowed into people's inner worlds.

## Radiation Oncology

### About you

Occupation	Radiation Oncologist	Radiation Oncologist	Radiation Oncologist
Years in current practice	15	7	8
Type of practice	Urban, >20 teaching days per year	Urban, >20 teaching days per year	Urban, >20 teaching days per year
Division of time	1–25%	1–25%	1–25%
Family status	Married, children	Married, children	Married, children

### About the job

Occupation	Radiation Oncologist	Radiation Oncologist	Radiation Oncologist
Average hours per week	51–70	45, plus some work at home	51–70
Three most common symptoms reported by your patients	—	—	1) Symptom palliation in lung cancer 2) Brain metastases 3) Adjuvant pelvic radiation for rectal cancer
Adequately paid?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Like the most?	Flexibility; the opportunity to do something that really matters for patients and families; working with students	Combination of patient care, research, and teaching	Helping patients
Want to improve?	Better control of my own schedule; group practice doesn't always allow for this	Have less hours	Fewer consults and more time for teaching and research

### About your life

Occupation	Radiation Oncologist	Radiation Oncologist	Radiation Oncologist
In your spare time?	Kids, horse ride, play harp, ceramics, read, coach sports	Read, look after kids, paint	Spend time with my kids, reading, sports
Does family life ever suffer?	Sometimes	Sometimes	Rarely
Job satisfaction (1–10)	8	7–8	7
One-sentence summary	The opportunity to balance patient care with the use of high-tech equipment in a group setting with a decent lifestyle is probably easier to obtain in this specialty than most.	Very satisfying job with an interesting combination of technology and profound human interaction. By and large, people are very happy—have not met a grumpy Radiation Oncologist.	Radiation Oncology offers great patient contact, research, and teaching opportunities, AND you can still have a life outside your job.

## Urology

### About you

Occupation	Pediatric Urology	Urological Surgeon	Pediatric Urologist	Urological Surgeon
Years in current practice	18	25	10	20
Type of practice	60% clinical, 40% administration work as Division Chair, Research, and Fellowship teaching	Teaching and clinical cases	Teach day, urban hospital >20 days, urban	Urban; >20 days/year dedicated to teaching
Division of time	10–15%	5%	1–25%	1–25%
Family status	Married, children	Single	Married, children	Married, children

### About the job

Occupation	Pediatric Urology	Urological Surgeon	Pediatric Urologist	Urological Surgeon
Average hours per week	65–70	45	51–70	71–100
Three most common symptoms reported by your patients	1) Genital reconstruction surgery 2) Urinary tract obstruction 3) Urinary tract infections as a result of vesico-ureteric reflux	1) Erectile dysfunction 2) Urinary tract infections 3) Prostate disease	1) Incontinence 2) Infection 3) Antenatal diagnosis on ultrasound	1) Incontinence 2) Increased PSA 3) Frequency/nocturia
Adequately paid?	Yes	No	Yes (is it ever enough?)	No
Like the most?	Great mix of teaching, academically challenging medical and surgical cases, and research	Work in erectile dysfunction and prostate disease	I know everything about a small amount	Training residents; patient satisfaction with resolution of their complaints
Want to improve?	Nothing, we have a wonderful work environment in Canada compared to many other developed countries	Access to the OR and waiting lists	Better access to resources to allow me to do what I was trained to do	Cannot improve without increased manpower and OR time

### About your life

Occupation	Pediatric Urology	Urological Surgeon	Pediatric Urologist	Urological Surgeon
In your spare time?	Golf, tennis, travel, read	Sports	Exercise, read, eat out	Cottage, travel, enjoy my car
Does family life ever suffer?	No	Sometimes	Sometimes	Often
Job satisfaction (1–10)	8.5	5	6	8
One-sentence summary	Find something that you love to do; every specialty has its advantages and disadvantages. Learn to be content with what you are.	Great lifestyle; excellent mix of open and endoscopic cases. Many of cases I work on deal with quality-of-life issues. After surgery I see very happy and satisfied patients.	Long haul, lots of training. You will be old when you start your first job...but, it is the best of a bad lot, and you will be surprised at how rewarding the job is, particularly when you least expect it.	Great specialty; always new innovations technically; excellent patient satisfaction; generally upbeat specialty compared to other surgical specialties.