Are GP career intentions more prevalent in UCL Primary Health Care iBSc students?

Pelei mentions the importance of the role of medical schools in influencing students to consider a career in general practice. Research on the undergraduate determinants on medical students’ career choices and specifically choosing a career in general practice is important because medical schools can now tailor their teaching to overcome the problem of the declining number of GP. Little research has been done on the career impact of iBSc degrees, and less on iBScs in primary health care: an outline of a new course. Med Teach 2001; 23(5):427–431.

In the current climate of sweeping change in the current climate of financial strain would be challenging enough without considering the steep learning curve for GPs and primary care.

Finally, though the traditional paternalistic consultation is increasingly a thing of the past, in promoting telemedicine, there may be a danger of failing to adequately address patients’ concerns and overlooking key language cues which would otherwise be apparent in face-to-face communication. The adoption of wide-ranging social media in healthcare would also be vulnerable to device failure and website maintenance, which occur commonly, leading to frequent periods of impaired communication between doctors and patients.

We recommended that social media in the healthcare setting outweigh the benefits outlined by the authors in their letter. We feel, instead, that the current focus in healthcare IT development should remain for the moment with greater harmonisation of disparate patient information networks coupled with continuing development of electronic patient notes and records.


REFERENCES

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