

Research Assessment #1

Date: September 4, 2020

Subject: Oncology Career Outlook

APA Citation:

Horn, L., Koehler, E., Gilbert, J., & Johnson, D. H. (2011). Factors associated with the career choices of hematology and medical oncology fellows trained at academic institutions in the United States. *Journal of clinical oncology : official journal of the American Society of Clinical Oncology*, 29(29), 3932–3938. <https://doi.org/10.1200/JCO.2011.35.8663>

Assessment:

This year in ISM, I have chosen to study the topic of oncology. I realized that I have a very limited knowledge of oncology, and I wanted to learn more about the different branches of medicine within oncology. My goals are that after learning about the factors that influence career choices in oncology, I will be able to narrow down my options of choosing a branch of oncology and gain a better understanding.

The article I have chosen discusses the factors that oncology medical students consider when choosing a specialty or subspecialty. Throughout the article, mentorship and other programs where there is an opportunity to gain experience was noted as an important deciding factor because people who had more experience within a certain field were more likely to stick with that field. I hope that by taking ISM and learning about what it is really like being an oncologist, I can choose what I would like to specialize in.

I learned that there are extensive educational requirements to become an oncologist. These include: completing and earning a bachelor's degree, applying to and graduating from a medical school, completing a residency (Different specialties have different types of residencies. For example: surgical oncologists have a five year residency, while pediatric oncologists have a different type of residency), complete a fellowship program, earn a license, and finally, become Board certified. I understand that this is a very demanding field and that it requires a lot of dedication and effort.

I then learned about some of the financial aspects of being an oncologist. Oncologists typically earn around \$290,000 a year, but that can change based on years of experience and location. The debt of medical students is also massive. Most medical students have over almost \$100,000 in debt. This is not only a difficult career field to be in, but it is difficult to pay off the debt.

I also learned that hematology and oncology are connected. I think I would like to pursue a career in hematology because it greatly interests me. Some medical procedures performed by oncologists and hematologists are bone marrow biopsies, blood tests, complete platelet count, and blood enzyme tests. These are usually done to test for anemia, leukemia and other blood-related disorders. These require careful implementation and practice to be done correctly.

Overall, my goals for this class are to be better equipped for going to college and in the future, hopefully medical school. By gaining experience with shadowing a mentor, I will be able to learn more

about what oncologists really do. I hope that by taking ISM I will be determined to continue learning and researching about oncology.