

Re: Medical Students' Views on Selection Tools for Medical School - A mixed methods study

Abstract:

Sir,

It was with great interest that I read the article by Stevens et al. regarding medical students view on selection tools for medical school. As the authors have stated, the selection tools must be acceptable to all stakeholders involved, one of whom are the medical students. While it is interesting to see that 76% of year 1 medical students supported the use of the HPAT-Ireland for selection purposes, it is important not to interpret this as being acceptable to all applicants. The 291 respondents in this study only represent 9% of the 3270 students who wrote the HPAT-Ireland in 2010 (personal communication).

Surveying only successful applicants to medical school increases the possibility of selection bias, with successful applicants being more likely to favour selection tools that were used in their application process. The work by Stevens et al. has added to our understanding of HPAT-Ireland acceptability to stakeholders. However, in order to dispel concerns or limitations regarding any selection bias against race, gender or socio economic status, future studies are needed seeking views from all applicants, not just those who are successful.

P Gouda
Clinical Science Institute, NUIG, Costelloe Road, Galway
Email: p.goudal@nuigalway.ie

References

1. L Stevens, ME Kelly, M Hennessy, J Last, F Dunne, S O'Flynn. Medical Students' Views on Selection Tools for Medical School - A Mixed Methods Study. Ir Med J. 2014;107