

## **Academic Career Interest of Recently Graduated Medical Doctors. Physician Scientists, an Endangered Species in Germany?**

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Academic careers in medicine internationally and also in Germany concerns about the future of physician scientists have been raised, since there is little interest of medical graduates in pursuing academic research careers. The collaboration of physician scientists and life scientists from “basic natural sciences” is, however, central to the translation from research to bedside. Given these concerns, the article analyzes possible reasons to the described phenomenon using qualitative and quantitative data, comprising medical doctoral graduates of 2013 and 2014. Of the surveyed doctoral graduates 13 percent were employed as research assistants and the expressed intention to pursue an academic career long-term was very low as well. Analyses revealed general research interest, research self-efficacy—which was significantly lower for females—and wanting to pursue a job centered on patient care as the main factors influencing academic career aspirations. Likewise low quality of supervision within the doctorate seemed to be demotivating and inhibiting research interest. To arouse research interest in medical students, more research related content should be implemented within the regular curriculum, i.e. undergraduate studies. Reinforcing research skills from early on would also strengthen research self-efficacy, which is in our study related to academic career pursuit/aspiration. Since most physicians were prioritizing clinical work and were, therefore, not interested in research professionally, facilitating the combination of clinical work and research might be helpful in getting more medical graduates to involve in research.