



Private Practice or Academia: Can a Private Practice Elective Help Decide?

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Disclosures:

None

Introduction

- Residents often struggle with the decision of whether to pursue a career in **private practice** or **academia** given their limited exposure to private practice during residency training.
- To assist in this decision making process, our institution has implemented a **two-week private practice elective**.
- AIM: To assess residents' **perceptions of the elective** and evaluate **impact on career path decision**

Private Practice Elective



- NYU Radiology Outpatient Facility
- 2-week elective block
- Instituted 2016-2017 academic year
- Available to “senior residents” (3rd and 4th year residents)
- Residents dictate studies and perform procedures under attending supervision in a multi-subspecialty private practice setting

Methods

- Anonymous survey administered to **all radiology residents**
 - Junior residents (1st and 2nd years)
 - Senior residents (3rd and 4th years)
- Survey consisted of Likert scale and free text boxes relating to **perception of elective** and potential impact on **career path decision**
- Mann-Whitney U test (two-tailed $p < .05$) performed to evaluate differences between cohorts of residents

Methods: Survey

Junior Residents and Senior Resident
Nonparticipants

(1 [Strongly disagree] to 5 [Strongly agree])

Elective Perceptions

I am interested in pursuing elective during 3 rd /4 th year	1	2	3	4	5
I believe the elective will improve my understanding of private practice	1	2	3	4	5
I believe learning about private practice is an important part of my training	1	2	3	4	5
Exposure to private practice model should be required during training	1	2	3	4	5
I believe the elective will help me decide between private and academia	1	2	3	4	5

Methods: Survey

Senior Resident Participants
(1 [Strongly disagree] to 5 [Strongly agree])

Elective Perceptions

I had a positive experience during my elective	1	2	3	4	5
I believe the elective improved my understanding of private practice	1	2	3	4	5
I believe learning about private practice was an important part of my training	1	2	3	4	5
I believe the elective will help me decide between private and academia	1	2	3	4	5
Exposure to private practice model should be required during training	1	2	3	4	5

Methods: Survey

Senior Resident Participants

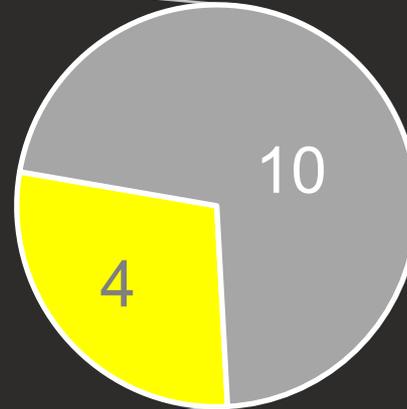
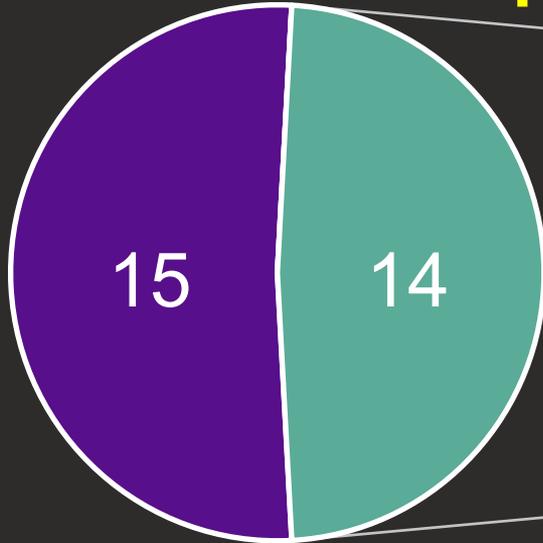
Career Path
Change

My views on private practice radiology changed	1	2	3	4	5
My views on academic radiology changed	1	2	3	4	5
The elective changed my career path from academic to private practice	Yes	No	N/A		
The elective changed my career path from private practice to academic	Yes	No	N/A		

Results

Junior Residents

Senior Residents



Senior Elective Participants

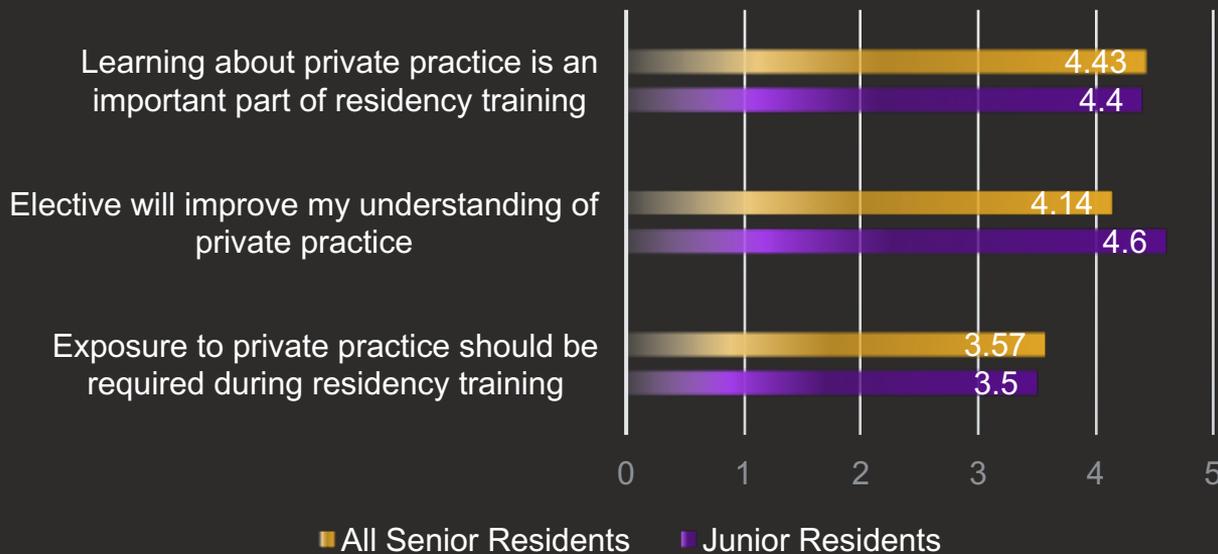
Senior Elective Non-Participants

29/37 (78%) residents participated in the survey

29% senior residents completed elective

Results

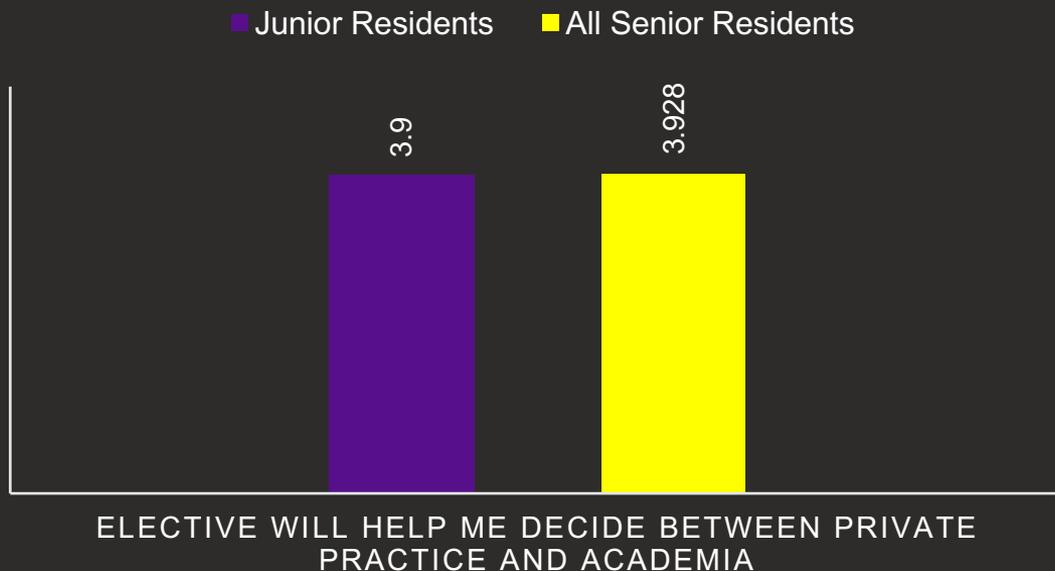
PERCEPTION OF PRIVATE PRACTICE ELECTIVE: AVERAGE LIKERT RATINGS



When asked if experiencing private practice is an important aspect of residency training, senior and junior residents yielded similar high average Likert ratings (4.4)

Results

CAN EXPOSURE TO PP AFFECT MY CAREER PATH DECISION?

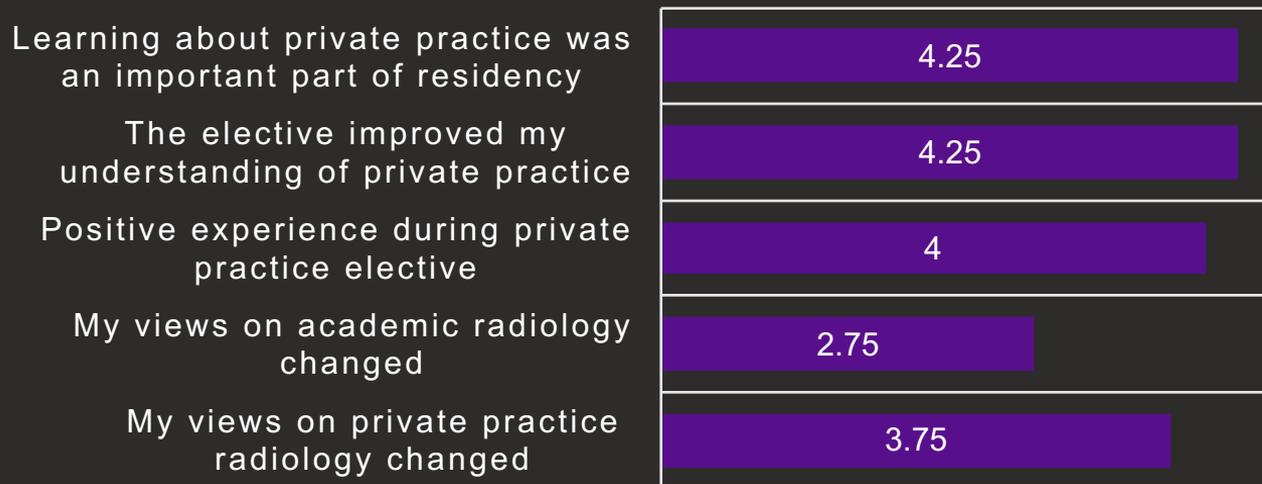


- 9/15 (60%) of junior residents and 12/14 (86%) senior residents answered ≥ 4
- No significant difference ($p=0.78$)

Results

SENIOR RESIDENT PARTICIPANT PERCEPTION AND CAREER PATH DECISION

■ Senior Participants



2 of 4 (50%) residents changed career trajectory (1 from private practice to academia, 1 from academia to private practice)

Comments made by participants regarding rotation experience:

Views By Residents When Asked If/Why Career Trajectory Shifted

Reasons for not pursuing private practice

“Lack of multidisciplinary conferences and tumor boards”

“No resident teaching”

“Lack of real-time subspecialty collaboration on complex cases”

“Lack of complexity of cases or urgency of cases (ED)”

“Less advanced imaging, ie. Body MRI”

“Less radiology interaction; a bit more isolating”

Reasons for pursuing private practice

“Close-knit community with strong support staff”

“Less demanding research requirement”

“More emphasis on clinical work”

“Less administrative/technical overhead”

“Smaller practice environment with increased ease/ability to make change”

Comments made by participants regarding rotation experience:

What Resident Participants Found Valuable

Inner-workings of the administrative practice

- Shadowing front desk staff
- Shadowing practice managers

Day-to-day practice of radiologist

- Approach to clinical work
- Case complexity and urgency
- Reading room atmosphere: fewer radiologist, less interaction
- Cross-reading multiple subspecialty studies (ie. MSK radiologist performing IR procedures)

Discussion

- Our data suggests that there is **interest** in a private practice elective among junior and senior residents
 - ✓ May improve a resident's understanding of private practice
 - ✓ May be an important aspect of a well-rounded residency training curriculum
 - ✓ Can affect career trajectory
- Participants found **utility** in a private practice elective:
 - ✓ Insight into administrative practice
 - ✓ Day-to-day workflow in a hybrid setting
 - ✓ Clinical/non-academic responsibilities
- Our data suggests a key difference in **work culture** and **environment**

Conclusion

There is a **positive perception** of a private practice elective among junior and senior residents.

There is **potential for impact** on career path decision making among senior residents who pursue the elective.