Radiology is a medical specialty in which a variety of radiologic methodologies are used to diagnose and treat diseases. While radiologists were traditionally trained in diagnostic and therapeutic radiology, today separate branches exist for each. Physicians studying diagnostic radiology are primarily hospital based and can specialize in a number of areas, including: vascular interventional; neuroimaging and intervention; abdominal imaging and intervention; nuclear medicine; chest and cardiac imaging; pediatric imaging; and mammography. The radiologist’s role has grown not only through great improvements in diagnosis, but also through the technological developments that now permits numerous interventional radiology procedures.

A diagnostic radiologist is the eye of medicine, helping the primary care physician diagnose and treat diseases. In addition, the radiologist now has the capability of employing multiple types of imaging and computer technologies to see inside the body.
Profile
The following information reflects responses from 37 radiologists who completed the 2003 Pathway Physician’s Survey.

A. Respondents by types of areas

- Large City: 18.92%
- Metropolitan City: 35.14%
- Small City: 35.14%
- Other: 5.41%
- Rural: 5.41%

B. Respondents by gender

- Male: 81.08%
- Female: 18.92%

C. Respondents by years in practice

- 1-5 yrs: 18.92%
- 6-10 yrs: 18.92%
- 11-15 yrs: 18.92%
- 16-25 yrs: 18.92%
- 26-30 yrs: 18.92%
- More than 30 yrs: 18.92%

Perspectives

A. Respondents’ satisfaction with current specialty/area of work

- Very satisfied: 28
- Somewhat satisfied: 10
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied: 4
- Somewhat dissatisfied: 4
- Very dissatisfied: 2
B. Would you choose this specialty again?

- Yes: 91.89%
- No: 8.11%

C. Respondents by practice environment

D. Respondents' satisfaction with practice environment
Rating and Weighting of Critical Factors

Critical Factors represent significant aspects of physicians’ experiences in their practices. The rating represents their assessment of their current practice characteristics, while the weighting represents the importance of each factor to physicians.

A. Caring for patients: How much time do you spend directly seeing and caring for patients?

Rating

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No time at all</th>
<th>Most of my time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Weighting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not at all important</th>
<th>Very important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

σ = 3.30

B. Continuity of care: How much continuity of care do you have with patients, (i.e., the length of patient relationships)?

Rating

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Short Term</th>
<th>Long Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Weighting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not at all important</th>
<th>Very important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

σ = 1.64

C. Autonomy: To what extent do you have the final word on the treatment of your patients?

Rating

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Very limited autonomy</th>
<th>Great deal of autonomy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Weighting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not at all important</th>
<th>Very important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

σ = 2.74
D. Diversity: How much routine (similar work) or diversity (different tasks/activities) is involved in your work?

Rating

\[ \sigma = 2.41 \]

E. Personal time: Does your work allow you to control the scheduling and amount of time you spend on personal activities, (i.e., family, leisure)?

Rating

\[ \sigma = 2.49 \]

F. Expertise: How broad is the scope of your work?

Rating

\[ \sigma = 2.33 \]
G. Income satisfaction: Compared to all physicians, do you feel you are fairly compensated for the amount of time and effort you spend?

Rating: \( \sigma = 1.68 \)

Weighting: \( \sigma = 0.55 \)

H. Creativity: To what extent does your work provide opportunity for creativity?

Rating: \( \sigma = 2.29 \)

Weighting: \( \sigma = 0.99 \)

I. Certainty of outcomes: How much certainty of clinical outcomes does your work provide?

Rating: \( \sigma = 2.19 \)

Weighting: \( \sigma = 1.21 \)
J. Clinical decision-making: On what basis are your clinical decisions made?

![Rating](image)

Application of theory to a situation

![Weighting](image)

Based on prior evidence of clinical outcomes

K. Patient decision-making: To what extent do your patients have input into decisions about their health care?

![Rating](image)

![Weighting](image)

L. Interacting with other physicians/members of health-care team: To what extent does your work provide opportunities for you to interact with other physicians/members of a health-care team?

![Rating](image)

![Weighting](image)
M. Manual/mechanical activities: How often do you use manual/mechanical activities for highly skilled tasks (i.e., following procedures, performing operations)?

Rating

![Rating Bar Chart]

Weighting

N. Pressure: How much pressure do you have in your work (i.e., dealing with clinical crises, need for immediate decisions about patients, dealing with multiple patients simultaneously).

Rating

![Rating Bar Chart]

Weighting

O. Responsibility: How much responsibility do you assume for patient outcomes in your work?

Rating

![Rating Bar Chart]

Weighting
**P. Schedule:** What type of schedule do you have in your work?

Rating

- Regular hours: 3.3
- Irregular and unpredictable hours: 

Weighting

- Not at all important: 3.2
- Very important: 

**Q. Security:** How much professional security do you have in your position, (i.e., know where you stand and are certain of your future professionally, will there be a need for your services in the future)?

Rating

- Little security: 7.5
- Great deal of security: 

Weighting

- Not at all important: 4.3
- Very important: 

**R. Sense of accomplishment:** To what extent does your work provide the opportunity to see end results?

Rating

- Little opportunity: 6.5
- Great deal of opportunity: 

Weighting

- Not at all important: 4.1
- Very important: 

**σ =**
Weekly distribution of time
According to the survey, radiologists spend their week as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Average Hours per week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(may overlap)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient care activities</td>
<td>42.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-call(in contact)</td>
<td>7.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-call(available)</td>
<td>24.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative</td>
<td>3.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional travel</td>
<td>4.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuing education</td>
<td>1.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community service</td>
<td>3.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>5.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other professional</td>
<td>2.08</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Patient profile

A. Patient encounters per week

By age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infants(0-2 yrs)</td>
<td>4.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children(3-18 yrs)</td>
<td>7.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults(19-64 yrs)</td>
<td>52.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Older adults(65+ yrs)</td>
<td>38.53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By race

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Underrepresented minority (URM)</td>
<td>20.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-URM</td>
<td>79.94</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By type of insurance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid/Medicare</td>
<td>38.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uninsured</td>
<td>11.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>50.06</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage of patient encounters that deal with:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Routine check-ups</td>
<td>12.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acute illness</td>
<td>50.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic illness</td>
<td>29.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terminal illness</td>
<td>12.23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage of time per patient encounter devoted to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acute conditions</td>
<td>55.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic conditions</td>
<td>33.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preventive health</td>
<td>15.12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C. Five types of illnesses/conditions most frequently encountered

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number of responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trauma</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer/malignancy</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central nervous system disease</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory diseases</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breast disease/mammography</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summary of comments for question: List up to three other factors, if any, you would advise students to consider carefully before selecting your specialty?

Physicians who completed the Pathway Physician’s Survey, 2003, submitted the following comments. The majority of comments are categorized by the Critical Factors that are rated and weighted in another section. Numbers in parentheses indicate the total number of responses for a particular comment.

1. Caring for Patients
   - Lack of direct patient care/contact (3)

2. Continuity of Care

3. Autonomy

4. Diversity

5. Personal Time
   - Lifestyle
   - Family time

6. Expertise

7. Income Satisfaction
   - Importance of income satisfaction vs. lifestyle issues
   - Income potential

8. Creativity

9. Certainty of Outcomes

10. Clinical Decision Making

11. Patient Decision Making

12. Interacting with Other Physicians/Members of Health-care Team
   - Quality of partners
   - Ability to consult with other physicians

13. Manual /Mechanical Activities
   - Able to do procedures

14. Pressure
   - High pressure during day
• High volume-rapid pace

15. Responsibility

16. Schedule
• Busy night call (4)
• Increasing demand for 24 hour radiology
• Time off opportunity
• Commuting time
• Schedule flexibility

17. Security
• Future demand

18. Sense of Accomplishment

19. Patient Characteristics

20. Types of Illnesses

21. Practice Environment
• Aggressive hospital management interfering with clinical systems in radiology
• Quality of hospital
• Group governance
• Malpractice (3)
• Quality of medical staff at the site where you choose to work
• Hospital vs. outpatient practice
• Relationship of group to hospital
• Dealing with administrators

22. Health Care Environment
• Government involvement
• Managed care trends

23. Personality/Temperament
• Ability to accept criticism
• High-tech interest
• Enjoy anatomy
• Technical ability
• Willingness to study during and after residency
• Computer interest (2)
• Patience
• Good spatial/pattern recognition
• Must like technical job

24. Miscellaneous Comments
• Radiologists have opportunity for the best CME courses- number, locale, and content
• At the mercy of your colleagues
• Location
• Quality of referring physicians
• Portability of work
• Has been challenging to keep up with recently
• Consider alternative career paths--research, education, etc
• Stability
• Thoroughness
• Doctor's doctor
• Not highly regarded by hospital administrators who know you don't bring patients into their institution
• Not being 'real' physician
• Do what you enjoy/are good at (2)
• Interventional procedures provide outlet for people who like to do (surgical orientation) in a field otherwise quite cerebral- an excellent combination
• Relationship with hospital or managed care organization
• Interest
• Control of patients
• Depend on referrals from others for the most part
• Residency training is easier than being out in practice
• Interest in equipment
• Technology