Author’s response to reviews

Title: Choosing a career in oncology: Results of a nationwide cross-sectional study

Authors:
Jean-Christophe FAIVRE (jeanchristophe.faivre@gmail.com)
Jean-Emmanuel BIBAULT (jean-emmanuel.bibault@aphp.fr)
Audrey BELLESOEUR (audreybellesoeur@gmail.com)
Julia SALLERON (j.salleron@nancy.unicancer.fr)
Maxime WACK (maximewack@free.fr)
Julian BIAU (julian.biau@hotmail.fr)
Mathilde CERVELLERA (mathilde.cervellera@hotmail.fr)
Guillaume JANORAY (guillaume.janoray@yahoo.fr)
Thomas LEROY (tomleroy85@gmail.com)
Nicolas LESCUT (lescut.nicolas@hotmail.fr)
Valentine MARTIN (val0607@hotmail.com)
Sarah MOLINA (molinasarah@outlook.com)
Baptiste PICHON (baptistepichon@free.fr)
Charles TEYSSIER (cr.teyssier@gmail.com)
Sébastien THUREAU (sebastien.thureau@gmail.com)
Jean-Jacques MAZERON (jean-jacques.mazeron@psl.aphp.fr)
Henri ROCHE (roche.henri@iuct-oncopole.fr)
Stéphane CULINE (stephane.culine@sls.aphp.fr)

Version: 1 Date: 16 May 2017

Author’s response to reviews:
Dear Editor,

We thank you for the consideration you have given to our article entitled, ‘Choosing a career in oncology: Results of a nationwide cross-sectional study’.

We thank the reviewers for their comments which have permitted us to improve the content of the manuscript.

Please find below the detail of the amendments that were made.

Best regards.

Jean-Christophe FAIVRE, on behalf of all the co-authors.

· Line 106 the wealth of human relations – not clear what this means
We re-wrote the sentence by replacing ‘wealth of human relations’ with ‘humanism – richness human relations’

· Line 116 french needs capital F ok
It is unclear how long a period is being described in total.

We re-wrote this sentence.

‘The study of medicine in France is arranged in 3 periods presented in Figure 1: a first (pre-clinical) period of 3 years, a second (clinical) period of 3 years, and a third period (residency), specific to each specialty of 4 to 5 years.’

The number of internships accepted and financed is still possibly too low. – needs rewriting for clarity.

We re-wrote this sentence.

‘The number of accepted and financed external internships might still be too low to accommodate all the residents’ demands.’

Line 138 take an additional time – better to say ‘have an additional period’ ok

Lines 139-40 and a postdoc at least one year 140 abroad – this is a dangling phrase, meaning is unclear

We re-wrote this sentence.

‘In addition to the regular medical curriculum, young oncologists can have an additional period of scientific training during their residency that can be used for a Master’s Degree, a PhD and/or one year abroad.’

Lines 159-163 It is unclear what ‘to be improved’ means in this context

We re-wrote this sentence.

‘We showed that residents needed additional training, due to the shortage of specialised postgraduate degree training. Existing teaching topics that were deemed to be improved were: basic concept, advanced concept and discussion of frequent clinical cases. The topics not covered that needed to be taught were: the development of career, medical English, the organization of RO speciality and the hospital management of RO department.’
· Lines 196-7 Does ‘simple choices’ mean ‘binary choice’ and does ‘multiple choices’ mean ‘multiple choice’?

We re-wrote this sentence.

‘The questionnaire consisted of 50 questions: 25 single choice questions, 19 multiple choice questions, 5 visual analogic scales and 1 free comments.’

· Line 200 Should ‘young’ read ‘a young’? ok

· Line 205 network’s not networks’ ok

· Lines 239-241 We have compared responders and non-responders using data 240 from the French National Observatory on Demography of Health Professions 241 (ONDPS). What were the results of the comparison?

These results have not been transcribed in our article. This sentence has been deleted.

· Line 247 What does cross sectional nature mean? Transversal

We re-wrote the sentence by replacing ‘cross sectional nature’ with ‘transversal aspect’.

· Line 247 What does ‘wealth of human relations’ mean?

We re-wrote the sentence by replacing ‘wealth of human relations’ with ‘humanism – richness human relations’

· Lines 276-326 of Results are very heavy going for the reader, with lots of numbers which would be better in tables.

We included part of the results in a new table 3 and we re-wrote the ‘research’ section to make it more comprehensible and easy to read.
Career expectations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>% (n/N)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>career in a public university hospital center or a cancer center that does not involve teaching or research</td>
<td>48.3 (244/505)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>career as a doctor/professor</td>
<td>39.0 (197/505)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>career in a general hospital</td>
<td>35.0 (177/505)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>career in a private hospital</td>
<td>34.3 (173/505)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>career in the health care industry</td>
<td>2.4 (12/505)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

· Line 335 ‘wealth of human relations’ again

We re-wrote the sentence by replacing ‘wealth of human relations’ with ‘humanism – richness human relations’

· The ‘Strengths and limitations’ section is quite poorly written.

we re-wrote the ‘Strengths and limitations’

Strengths of this study are that such a large number of respondents has never been explored (n=505, 75.6% overall response rate) and the wide range of assessed themes. Some subjects have been studied in more detail than the study by Loriot et al [3]: sociodemographic profiles, determinants in the decision to practice oncology, work expectations (worktime and concerns). Other subjects have never been studied in young oncologists: internship outside their Medical School during their residency in France and abroad, post-residency, role of teaching societies in
professional development. An another strength of this study is that all young oncologists participated allowing a comparison between medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, haematologists and organ specialists. One limitation of our study is that the results are not comparable with other countries because the training of doctors is partially different from one country to another.

- Line 361 ‘Determining’ is mis-spelt. Ok

- Line 362-4 Without surprise, the main determining factors in the decision to practice oncology are cross sectional nature, humanism – wealth of human relations, multi-profession / multi-disciplinary nature and clinical. This sentence needs re-writing in good English – the meaning is not clear.

We re-wrote this sentence.

The main determining factors in the decision to practice oncology are the transversal nature of the field, the richness of human relations and the multidisciplinary nature of the field.

- Line 387 Delete ‘of’ ok
- Line 396 ‘were not major’ instead of ‘hadn’t majors ‘ ok
- Line 414 ‘major’ not ‘majors’ ok
- Line 419-22 Sentence needs rewriting for clarity

We re-wrote this sentence.

Among young oncologists, (72.6% (366/504)) would like to work full-time; 25.2% (127/504) would like to work in a part-time position (between 70 and 90% full-time equivalent); and 2.2% (8/504) would like to work in a half-time position. More women than men want to work part-time (38.8% (102/263) vs. 13.7% (73/263), p <0.001).

- Line 441 Delete ‘of’ ok
- Line 453 ‘Retention’ might be better than ‘adhesion’ ok
Line 693 What does 'business reasons' mean?

We have re-wrote this sentence “If you don’t have child, is it because of your profession?”