

Negative Secular Trends in Medicine

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Negative Secular Trends in Medicine: Overview

Multiple factors are making Medicine less competitive for the smartest kids in the class.

The loss of just a few stars will have a disproportionate effect on overall quality.

By identifying problems, I am optimistic that Medicine can improve.

Negative Secular Trends in Medicine: Prolonged Training Periods

Training periods are getting longer, and longer---and longer, with no scientific data to support the changes.

Physicians are professional students, while their college contemporaries hold responsible, even prominent, positions.

Lack of maturity is a hollow argument. Explosion of knowledge is also a specious argument.

Downside of long training periods has already affected Veterinary Medicine.

Negative Secular Trends in Medicine: Prolonged Training Periods

Complete college courses in high school.

Go to med school after 3 years college.

Combined 6 year undergraduate-MD program.

? Drop 4th year of med school.

Residency and Fellowship can be shortened by 1-3 years.

Every year saved increases the value of a career in Medicine by \$250,000.

Negative Secular Trends in Medicine: Student Debt

Mean debt is \$175,000.

Median debt is \$180,000.

Debt affects major life decisions such as buying a home and having children.

Debt is too easy to obtain. Debt is slavery. It should come with a black-box warning.

Marry a doctor. Double your debt.

Negative Secular Trends in Medicine: Student debt

Ways to Minimize Debt

Thrift creates wealth.

Get a job and earn money.

Med schools must make a good-faith effort to hold down tuition.

Government must exit the business of guaranteeing student loans.

Take a Military commitment.

Negative Secular Trends in Medicine: Application Process for Residency

The process is out of control. Some students apply to every program, submitting more than 100 applications.

This costs students thousands of dollars, which they borrow, and weeks of time away from their studies.

The cost to the programs is even greater.
Limit applications to 10.

Negative Secular Trends in Medicine: The ABIM and MOC

WHAT A MESS!! Bureaucracy gone wild.
Changes arbitrary, backed by no data.
Motives are unclear. ? Breach of
fiduciary duty.

No other profession requires recert.
Board should be elected, and replaced
by practicing physicians on the front line.

Negative Secular Trends in Medicine: High Hospital Profits

Some “non-profits” make a quarter billion dollars in profit per year.

Why are “non-profits” so profitable? The IRS and Congress would like to know.

Competition between “non-profits” is an important driver of increased health care costs.

Congress must redefine non-profit as making no profit.

Negative Secular Trends in Medicine: For-profit Hospitals

It is not a coincidence that the first for-profit hospital was opened just 2 years after the passage of Medicare and Medicaid decreased the need for charity care.

There are only a limited number of ways a hospital can generate a profit.

Is it logical to operate a hospital for profit?

Negative Secular Trends in Medicine: High CEO salaries

Many CEOs make more than \$1M per year. Some make more than \$10M.

The average CEO at a "non-profit" makes 2.4x the average physician.

The CEOs at non-profits have seized the tax advantage for their personal benefit.

The relationship between physicians and the Administration has changed.

Negative Secular Trends in Medicine: Becoming a Hospital Employee

The trend is driven by many factors, especially “lifestyle”, and the desire to avoid the business end of Medicine.

Physicians lose all influence and Independence. They are no more than a Cost center to be controlled.

Negative Secular Trends in Medicine: Chief Medical Officer

The CMO is a hospital employee,
reporting directly to the CEO.

The average salary of the CMO is 50%
higher than the average physician.

Do not share confidential information.

The CMO does not represent physicians.

The job of the CMO is to impose the
wishes of the Administration on the
Medical Staff.

Negative Secular Trends in Medicine: Summary

- 1) My concern is that Medicine is losing its competitiveness for the smartest kids in the class.
- 2) Training periods must be shortened at least 2 years, and hopefully 3-4 years.
- 3) Decrease debt by thrift and work.
- 4) Med schools must make a good faith effort to hold down tuition.
- 5) The Federal government must exit the business of insuring student loans.
- 6) Applications for Residency should be capped at 10.

Negative Secular Trends in Medicine: Summary

7) ABIM: clean house.

8) Congress must redefine non-profit as making no profit.

9) Operating a hospital for profit is illogical.

10) Physicians must avoid being a hospital employee.

11) Physicians must be more aggressive in protecting their interests, even consider organizing.