

Lana Shteynman,¹ Deborah Li,¹ Zhaosheng Jin MBBS, MSc,² Wei-Hsin Lu, PhD,³ Joy Schabel, MD²

¹ Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University, ² Department of Anesthesiology, Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University, ³ Department of Family, Population and Preventive Medicine, Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University

Purpose

To investigate the influencing factors of clinical rotations on medical students' specialty preferences at the completion of their clerkship year.

Introduction

- Choosing a medical specialty is an important decision for medical students.
- Preferences often evolve over time and are influenced by many factors, including mentorship, patient service orientation, and academic interests.
- In recent years, there has been a steady nationwide increase in students interested in Anesthesiology, especially after clinical rotations.
- Investigating how rotations influence student preferences will aid the administration in advising students and refining clerkship structure.

Methods

- Upon completion of clerkship year, students in the Class of 2025 at the Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University (RSOM) were administered an End-of-MS3 Survey based on the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) Matriculating Student Questionnaire (MSQ).
- The survey assessed students' specialty interest, desired career trajectory, and influencing factors of clerkships.
- Descriptive statistics were performed for the entire cohort and students interested in Anesthesiology.

Class of 2025 completes AAMC MSQ, June-Aug 2021

↓ Compare

RSOM Class of 2025 completes End-of-MS3 Survey, February 2024

Class of 2025 matriculates into RSOM, August 2021

↓

Class of 2025 completes rotations, January 2024

Figure 1: "My Specialty of Interest Changed Since Beginning Clerkships"

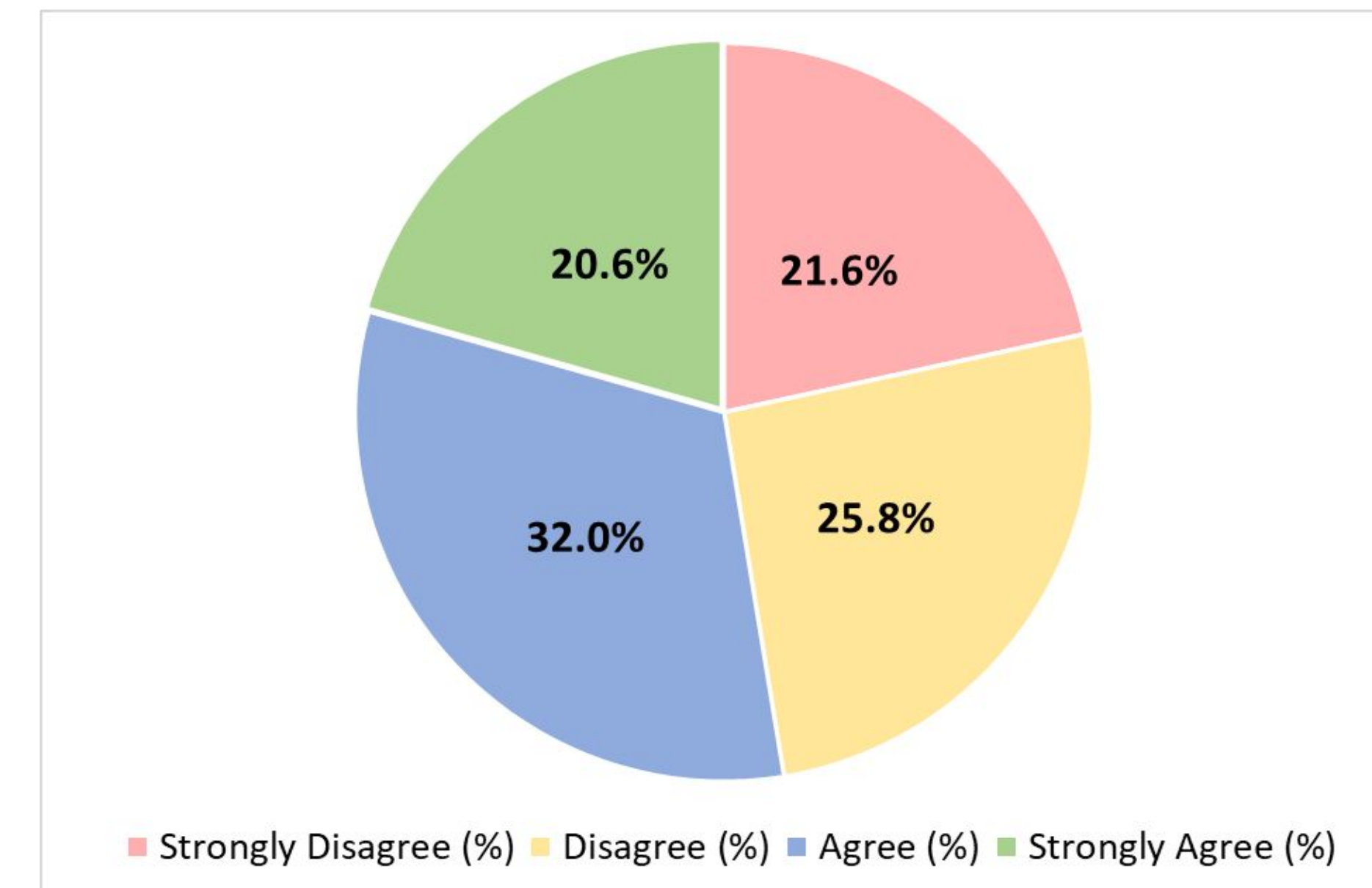


Figure 2: Influence of Clerkships on Medical Student Interest in Anesthesiology (RSOM Class of 2025, N=8)

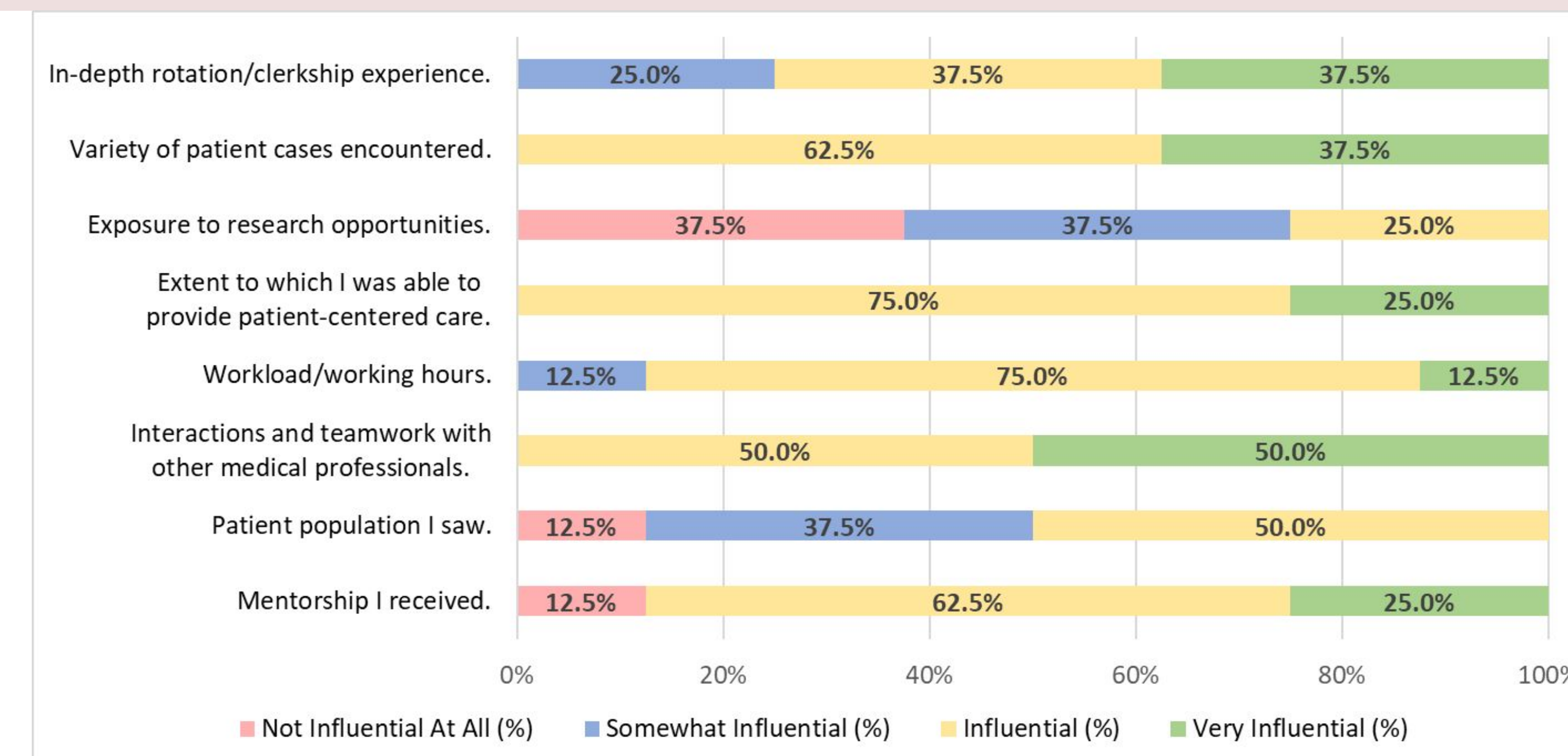


Table 2: Considerations That Students Deem "Essential" to Their Careers

	AAMC MSQ 2021 (RSOM Class of 2025, N=85)	End of Clerkships (RSOM Class of 2025, All, N=96)	End-of-M3 Survey 2024 (RSOM Class of 2025, Anesthesiology, N=8)
Working for Social Change	24.40%	17.70%	12.50%
High Income Potential	4.90%	6.30%	0.00%
Social Recognition/Status	1.20%	2.10%	0.00%
Stable, Secure Future	43.90%	47.40%	87.50%
Creativity and Initiative	23.20%	30.20%	37.50%
Availability of Jobs	25.60%	29.20%	62.50%
Leadership Potential	25.60%	14.60%	0.00%
Work/Life Balance	47.60%	49.00%	62.50%
Ability to Pay off Debt	39.00%	40.60%	75.00%
Opportunity for Innovation	26.80%	18.80%	0.00%

Higher or lower proportions of Anesthesiology-interested RSOM students vs. all RSOM students are indicated.

Conclusion

From beginning medical school to completing clinical clerkships, students demonstrated the **largest absolute increase in Anesthesiology.**

Students interested in Anesthesiology at RSOM cited the **interactions and teamwork** they had with other medical professionals as most important in their career preference. They also valued career **stability and security** more than the general student body.

Discussion

- This longitudinal study explored how clinical rotations influence students' career aspirations.
- 52.6% of the Class of 2025 indicated that their specialty interest changed since the completion of clerkships, thus raising the question of what caused these changes.
- Among the most influential experiences for students was the interactions and teamwork with other medical professionals, thus emphasizing the importance of interpersonal relationships in career choice.
- Students interested in Anesthesiology valued a stable future, availability of jobs, work-life balance, and the ability to pay off debt substantially more than students interested in other specialties.
- Future work should explore trends across several classes and further investigate how the administration can better tailor resources and support to students' needs.