

Swiss Medical Students' Specialty, Career and Residency Choices

2007 and 2008 Surveys

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With the participation of

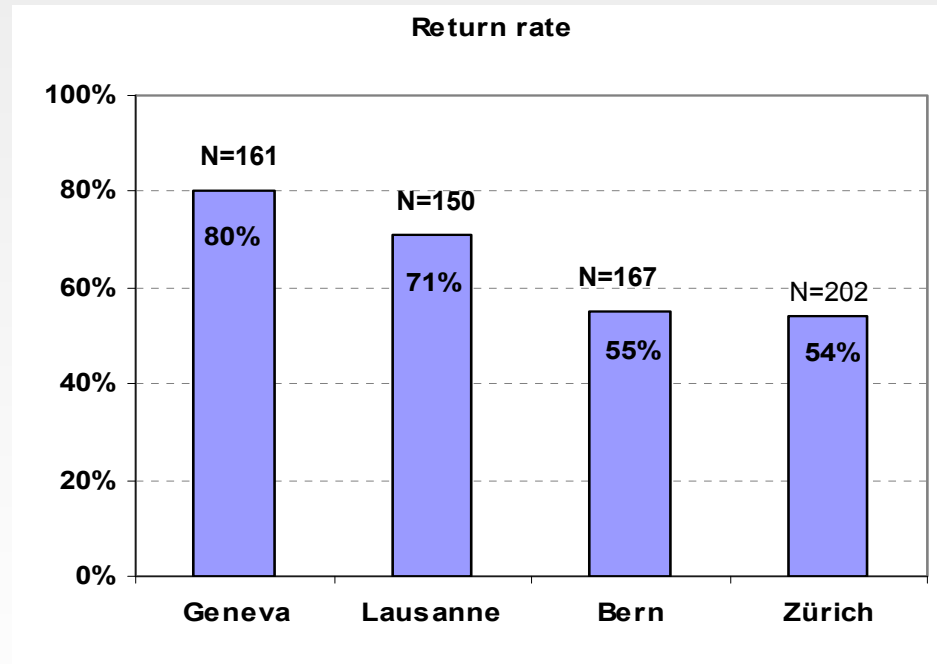
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2007 and 2008 surveys conducted with students from the Faculty of Medicine of Lausanne, Bern, Zurich and Geneva*

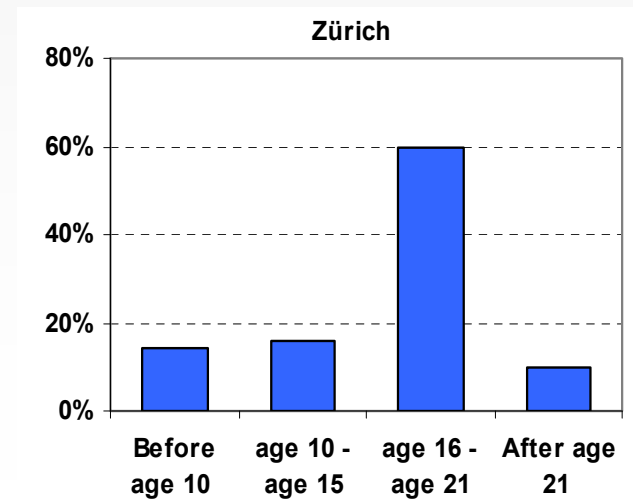
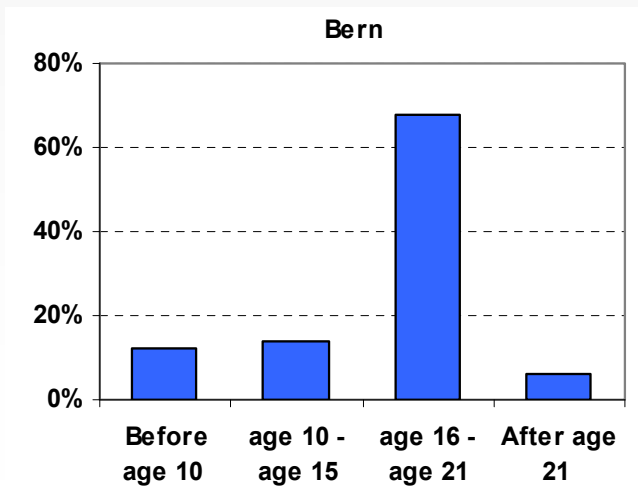
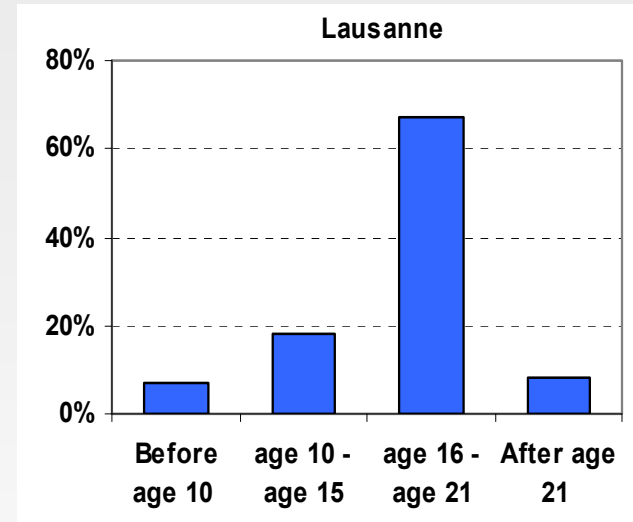
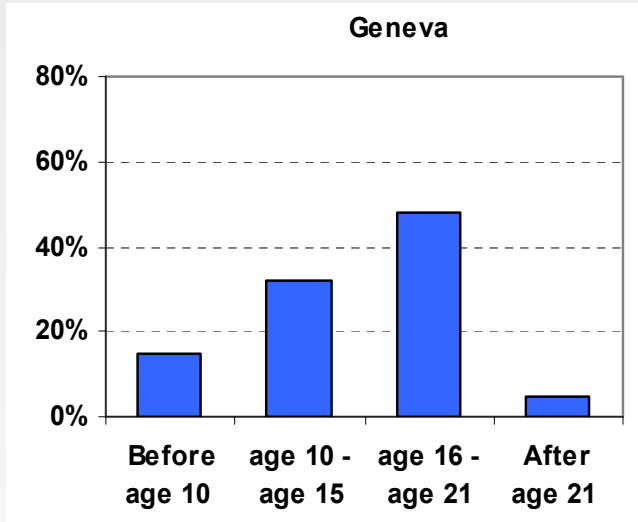


* Geneva (N total = 201) / Surveys administered in the 5th year

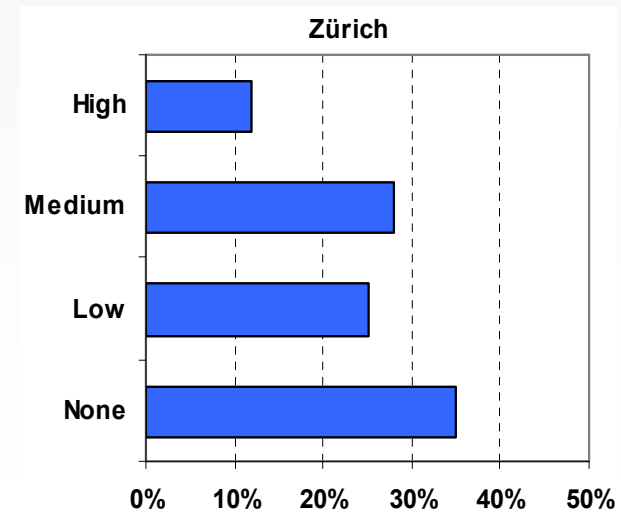
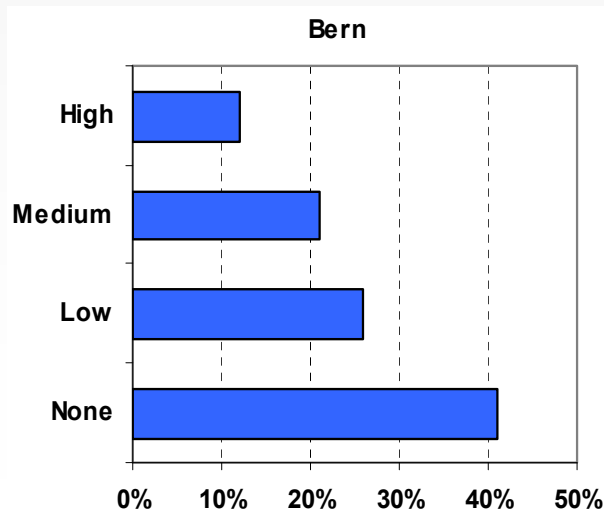
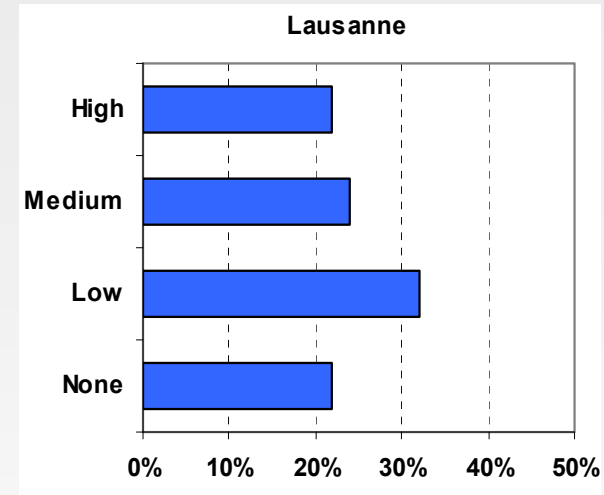
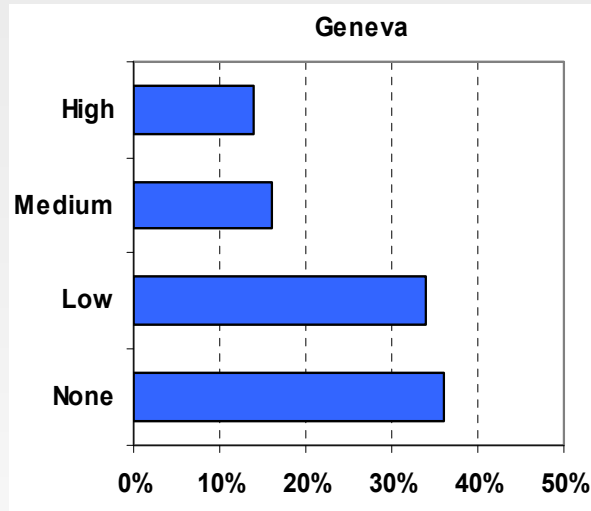
* Lausanne (N total = 210), Bern (N total = 306), Zurich (N total = 379) / Surveys administered in the 6th year

* The surveys for Geneva and Lausanne were administered on paper while the ones for Bern and Zurich were on-line

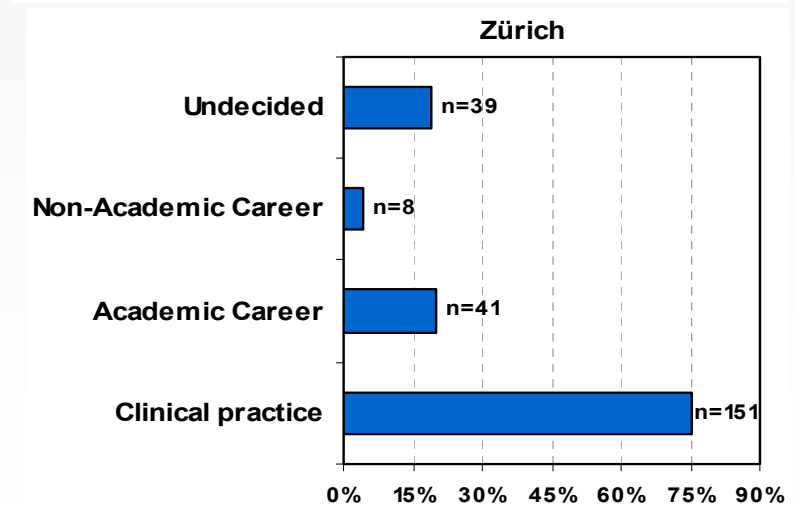
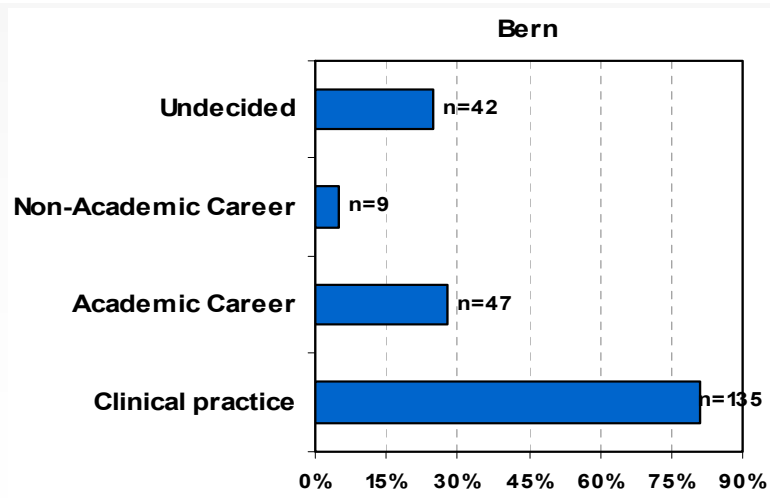
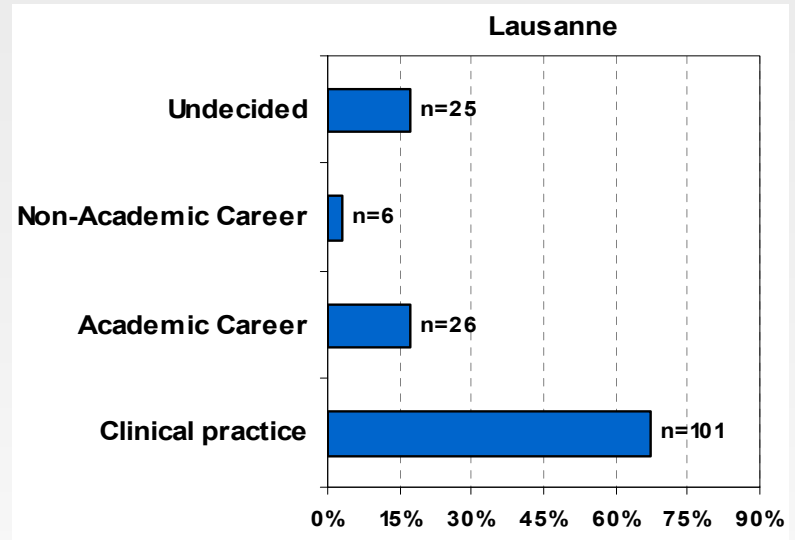
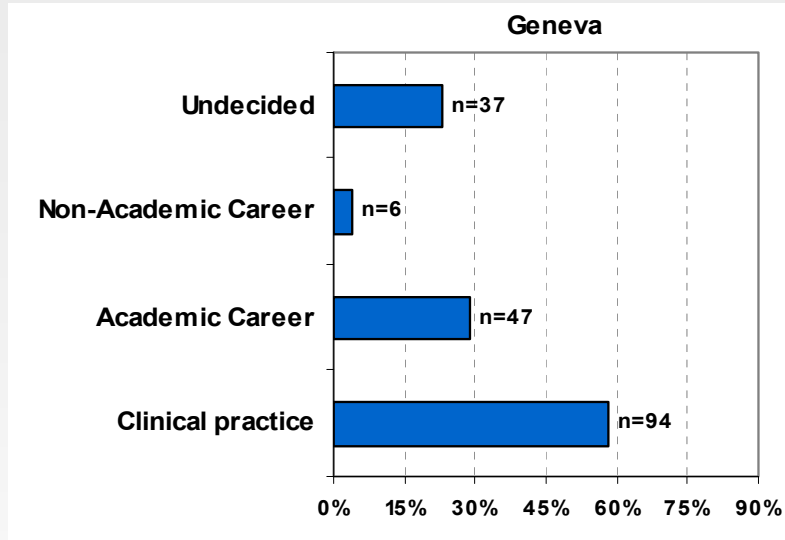
Age of decision to study Medicine



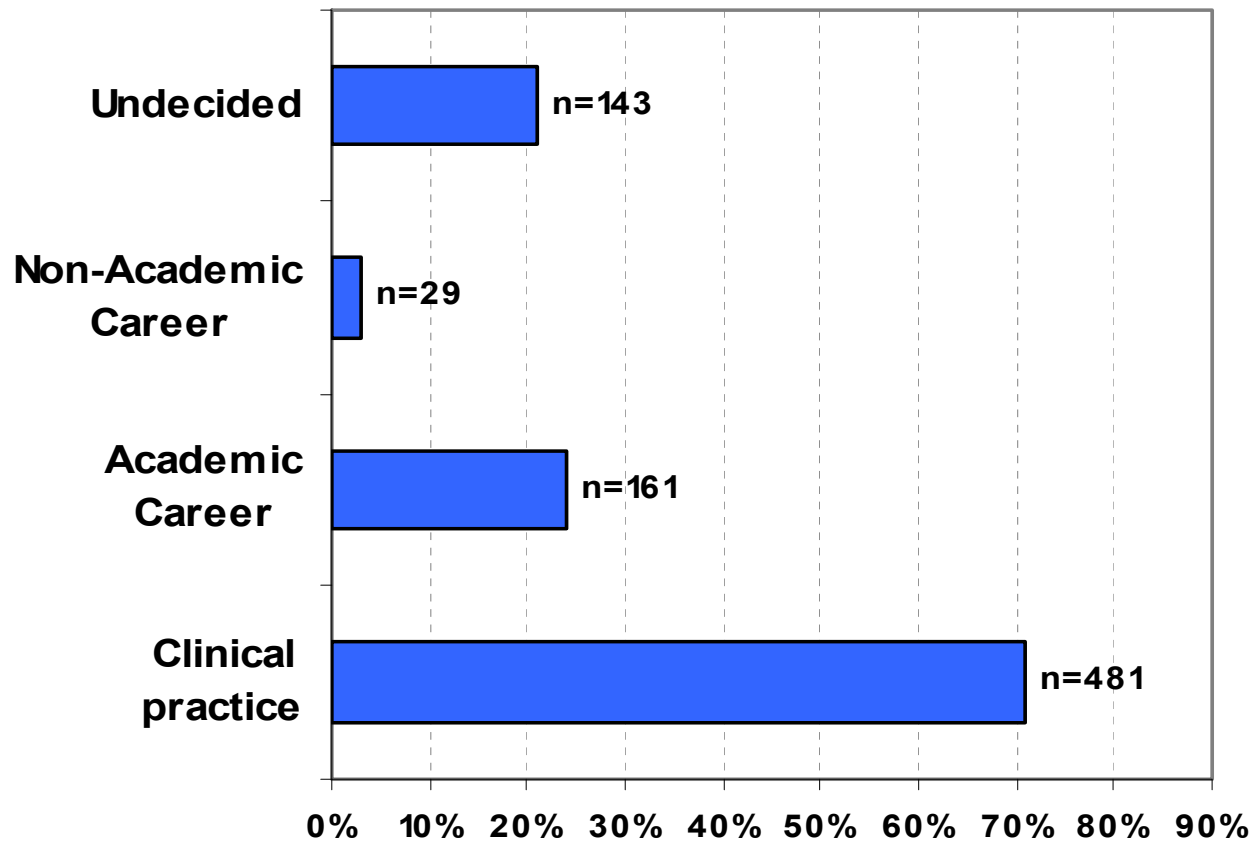
Degree of hesitation to study Medicine



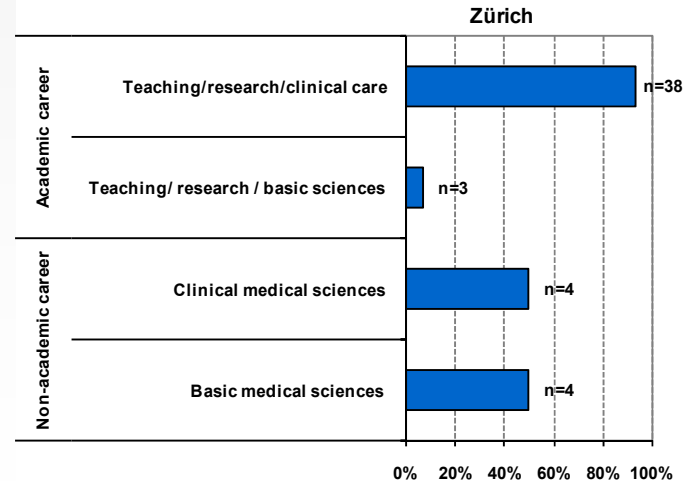
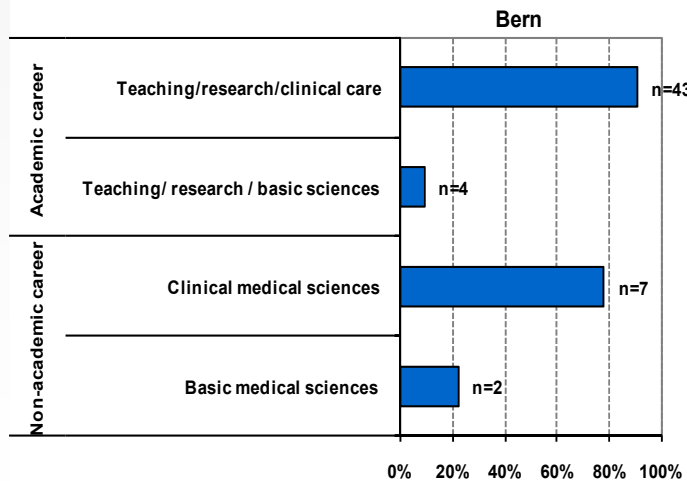
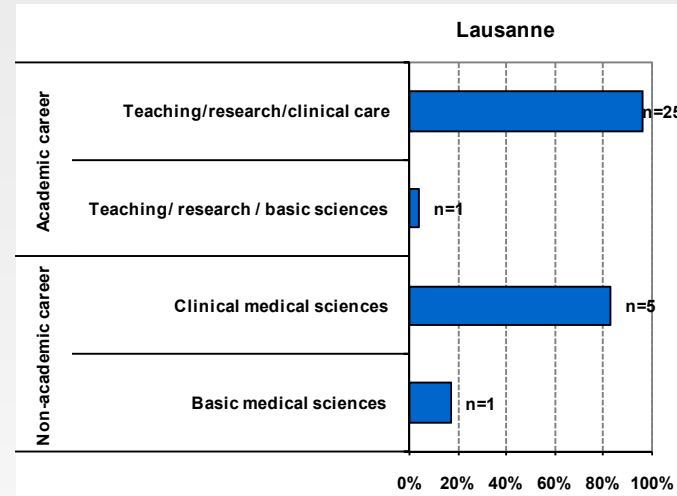
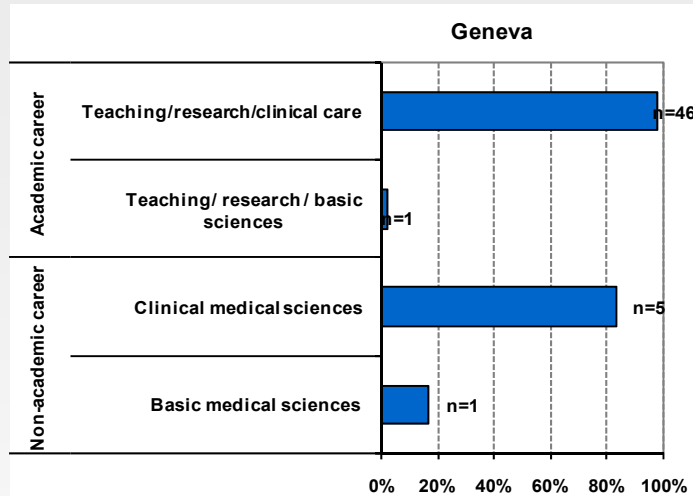
Choice of Career Plan - by Faculty



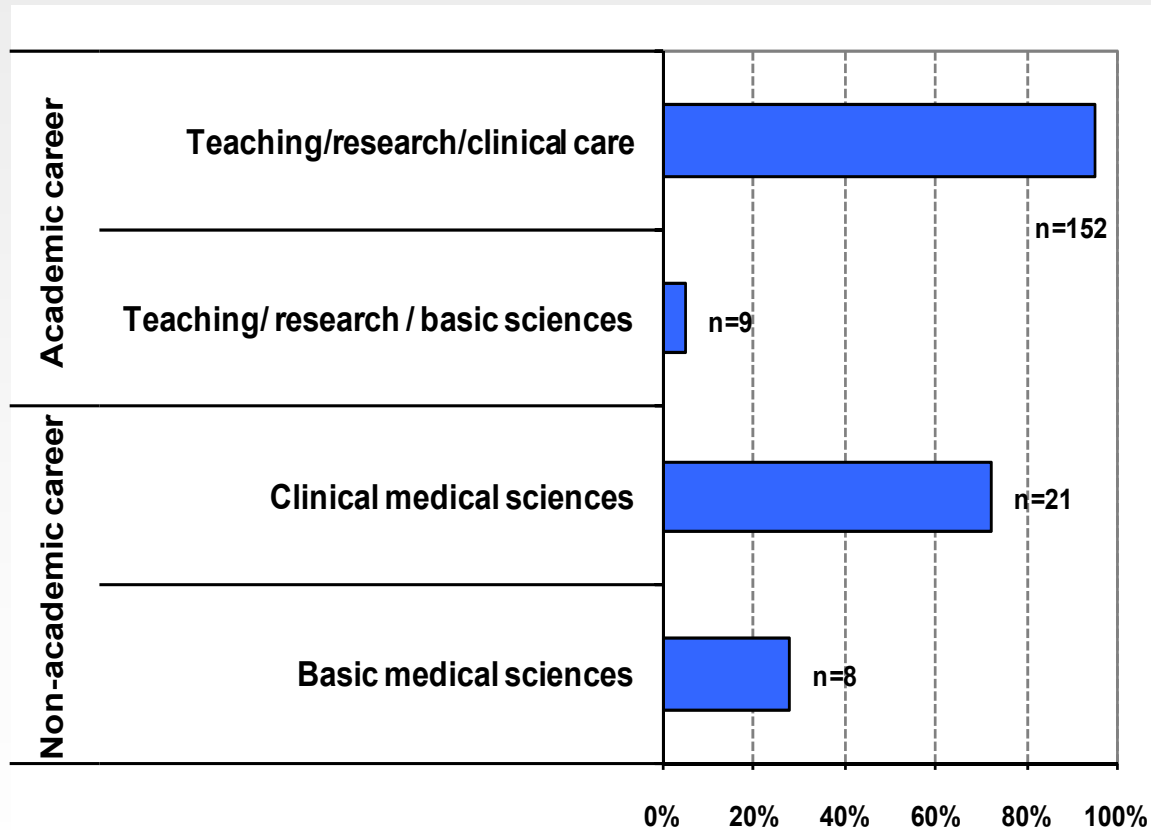
Choice of Career Plan – All 4 faculty



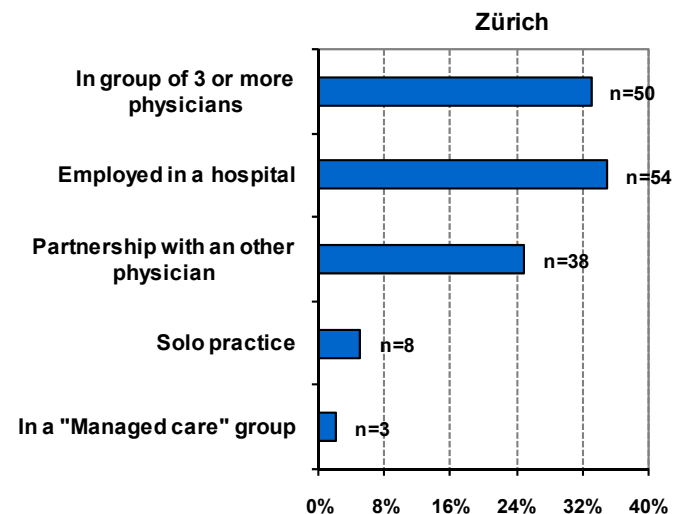
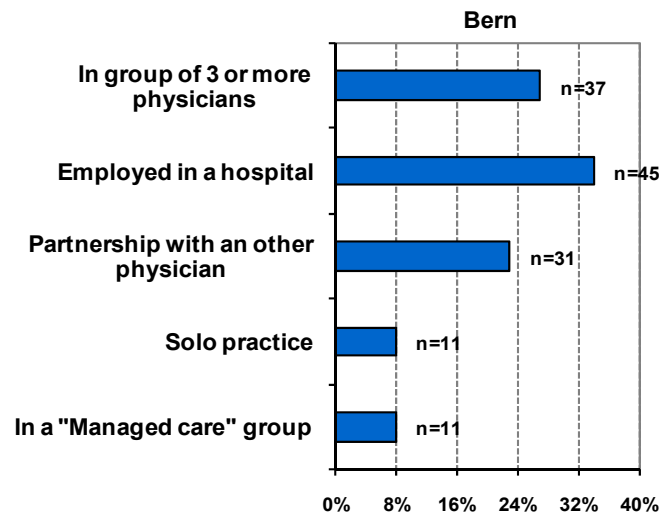
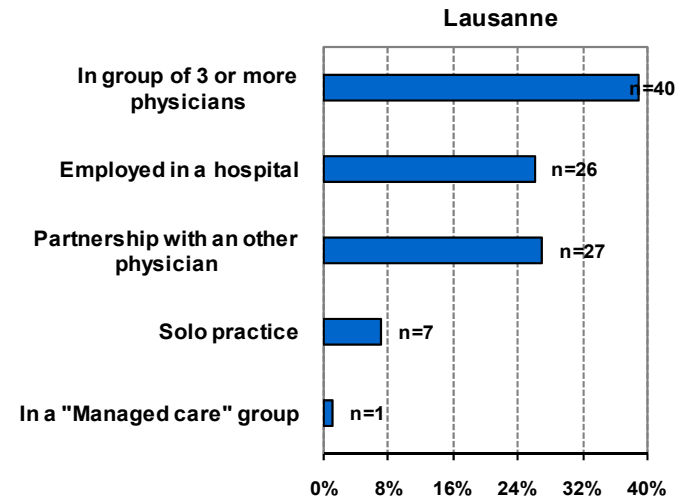
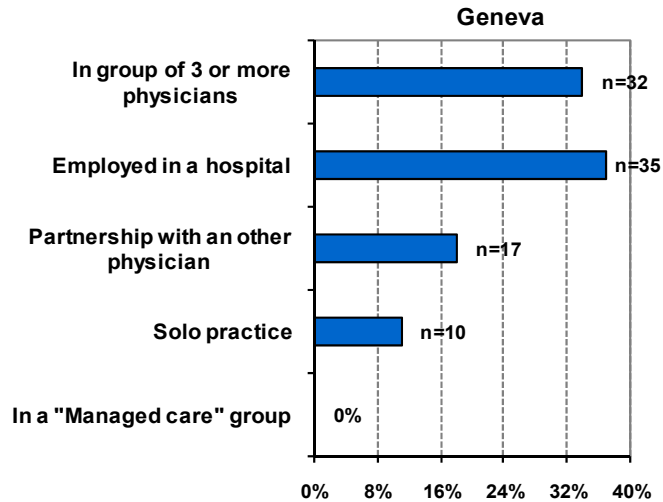
Choice of Career Plan: Academic vs. Non-academic - by Faculty



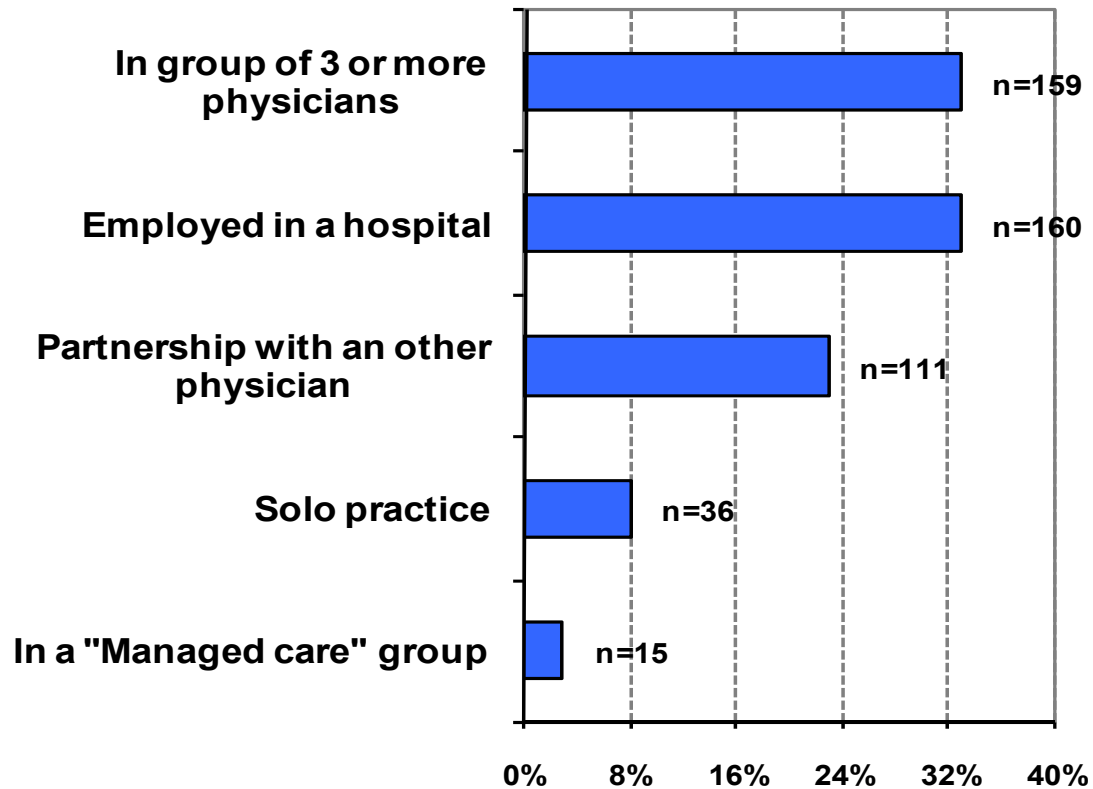
Choice of Career Plan: Academic vs. Non-academic All 4 Faculty



Choice of Career Plan: Clinical practice – by Faculty



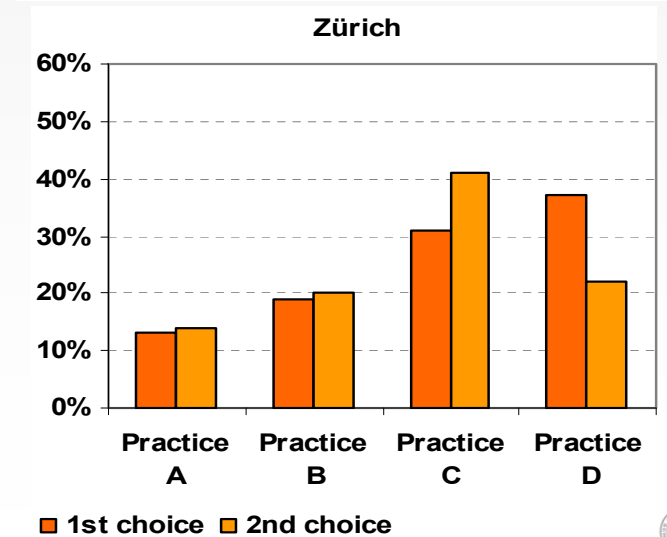
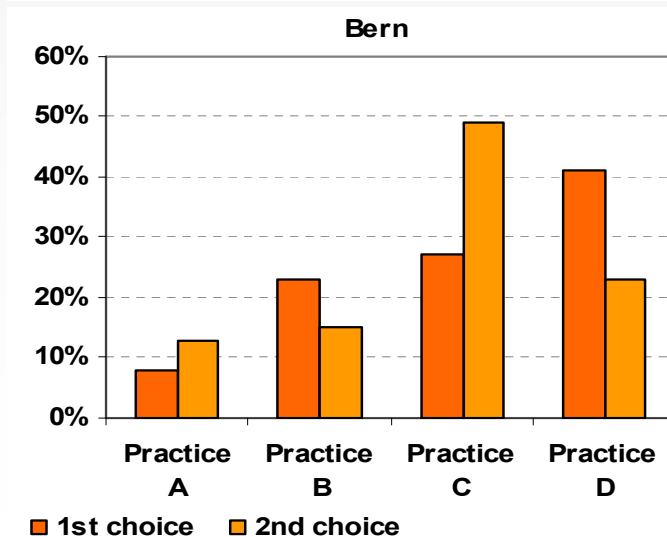
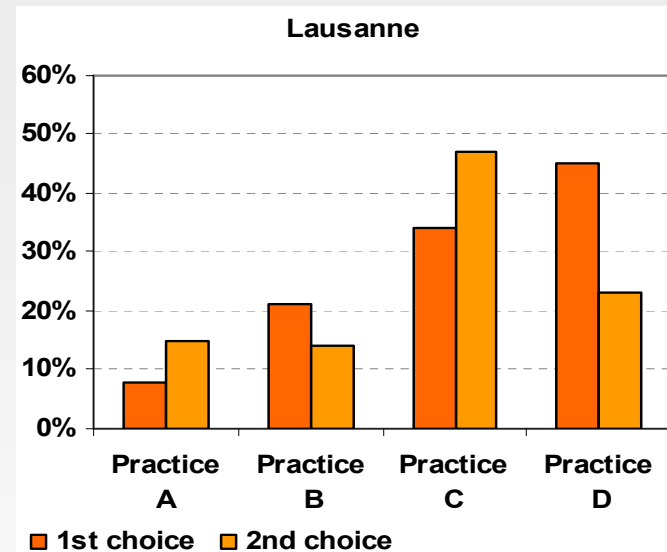
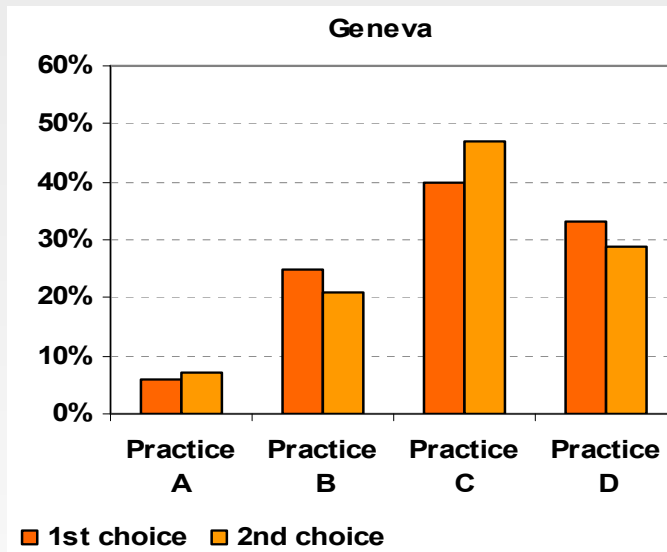
Choice of Career Plan: Clinical practice – All 4 Faculty



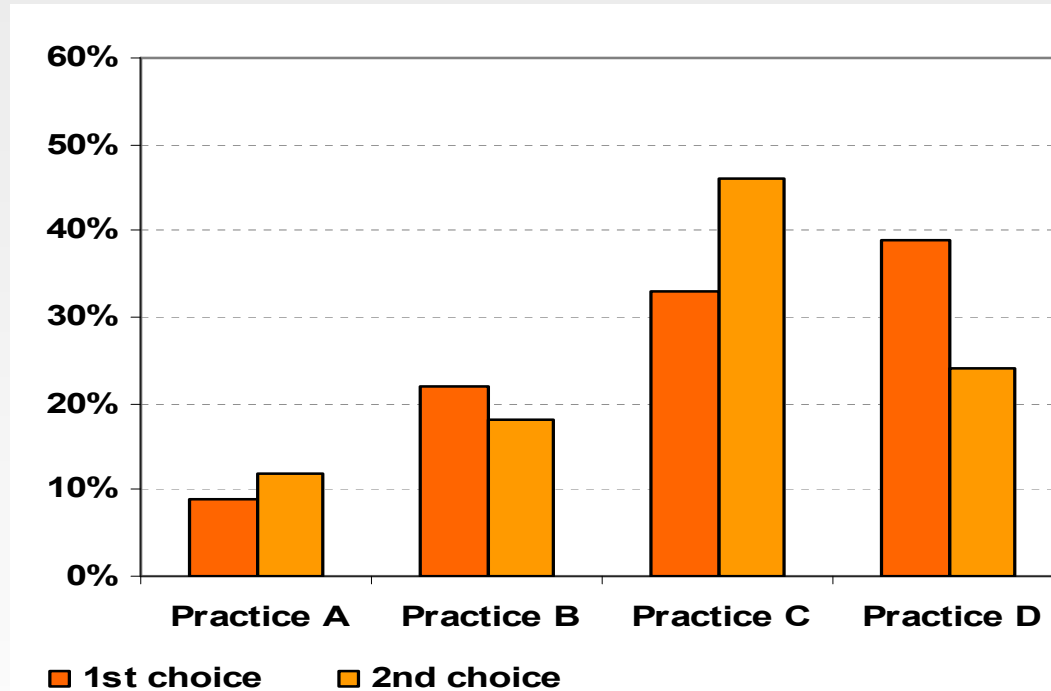
Choices of Career plans: Type of Clinical Practice

Practice A	Performing specialized diagnostic or technical procedures, basic or applied laboratory research; Primarily hospital- based. (ex : radiology, pathology ...)
Practice B	Performing highly skilled and specialized therapeutic techniques or procedures. Primarily hospital-based with some office activity. (ex : orthopedic surgery, ophthalmology ...)
Practice C	Providing episodic or long-term care of a limited number of medical problems that may include instrumentation and technical interventions. Mix of ambulatory and hospital-based practice. (ex : internal medicine, cardiology, psychiatry, dermatology, obst/gynecology ...)
Practice D	Providing first encounter health or illness appraisal, preventive education and interventions, episodic and long-term comprehensive care of a wide variety of medical problems. Primarily office-based. (ex : family medicine, general medicine ...)

1st and 2nd Choice of Type of Clinical Practice - by Faculty



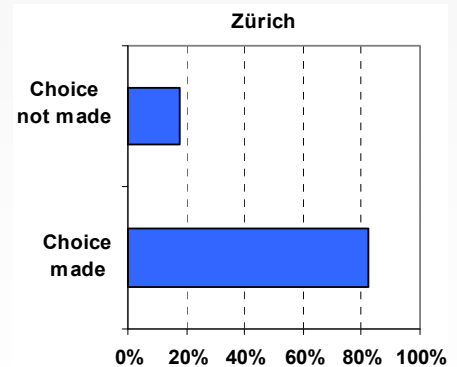
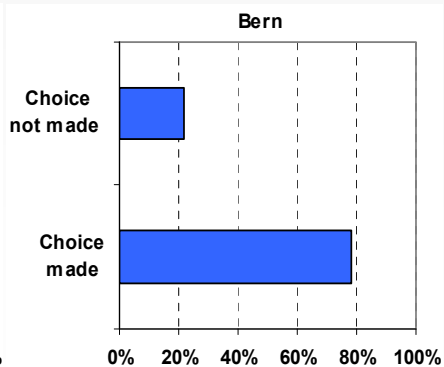
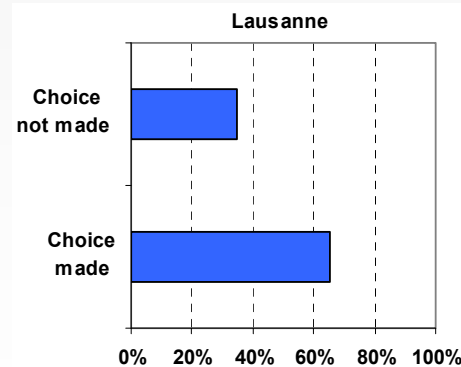
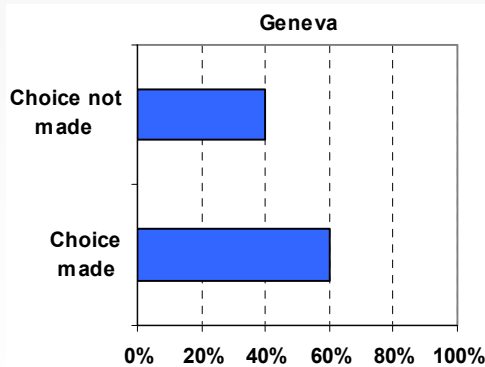
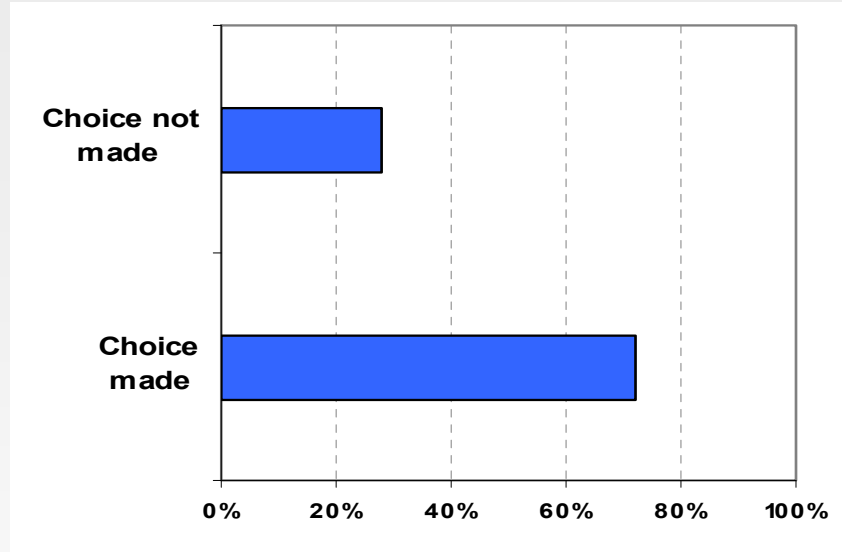
1st and 2nd Choice of Type of Clinical Practice All 4 Faculty



Practice A	ex : radiology, pathology ...
Practice B	ex : orthopedic surgery, ophtalmology...
Practice C	ex : internal medicine, cardiology, psychiatry, dermatology, obs/gynecology ...
Practice D	ex : family medicine, general medicine ...

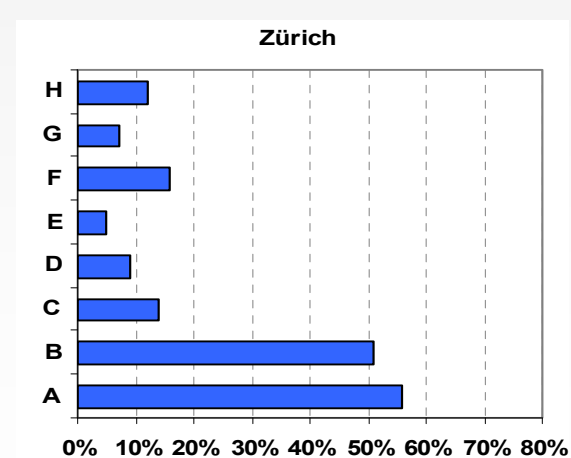
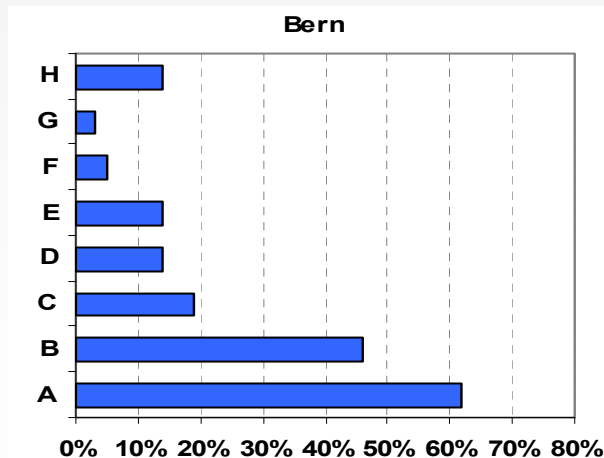
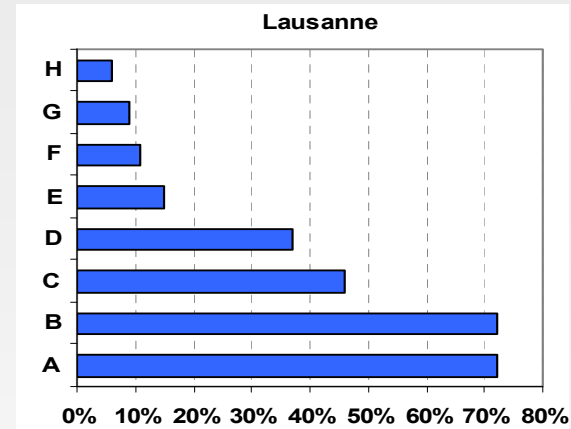
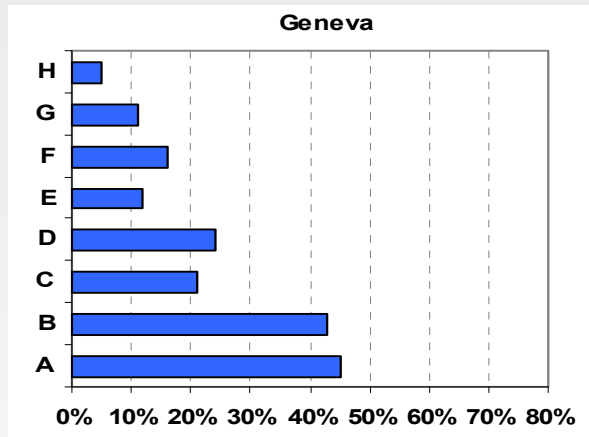
Specialty choices status – All 4 Faculty and by Faculty*

All 4 Faculty



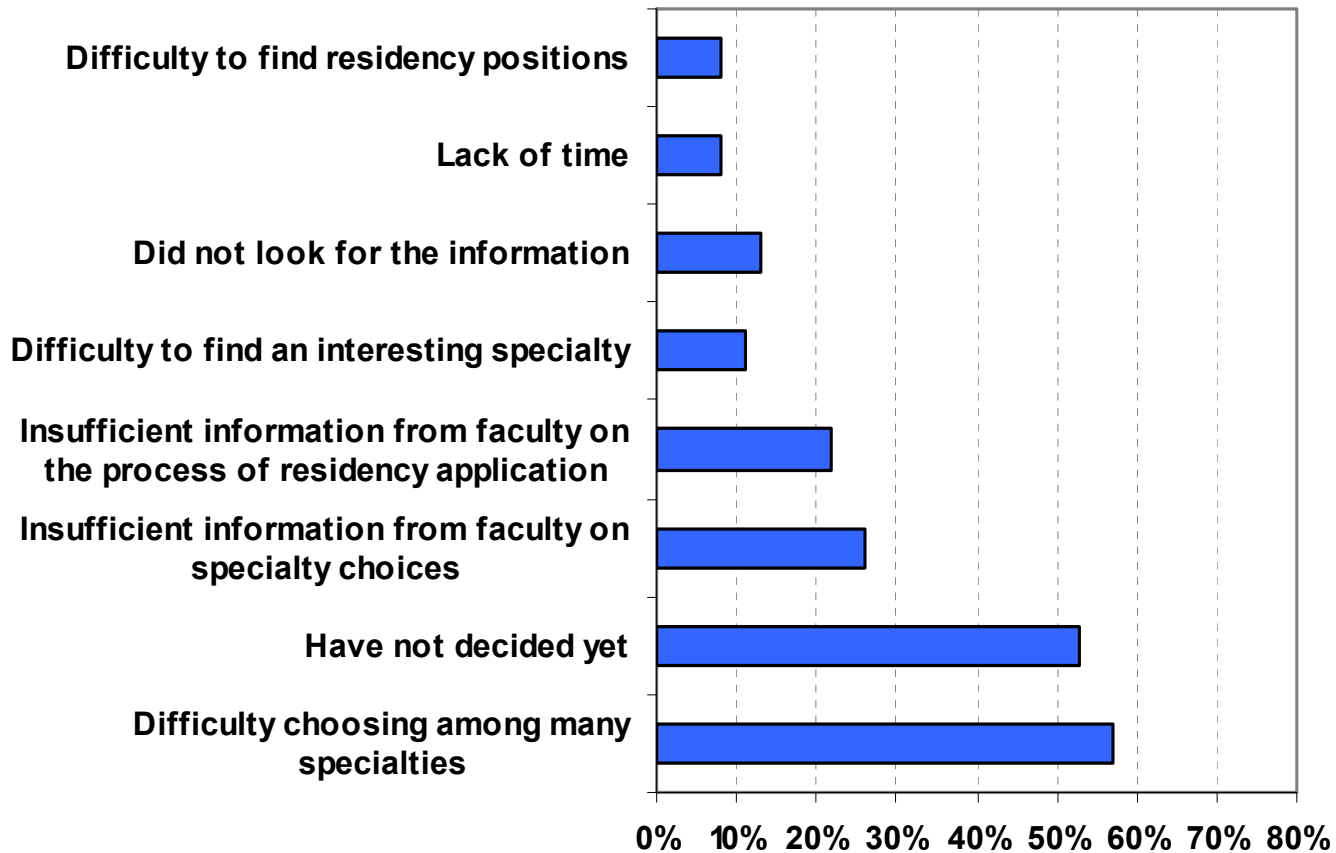
* This item was asked at the end of the 5th year to the students in Geneva, and at the end of the 6th year to the students in Lausanne, Bern, and Zurich.

Reasons for not making a specialty choice – by Faculty

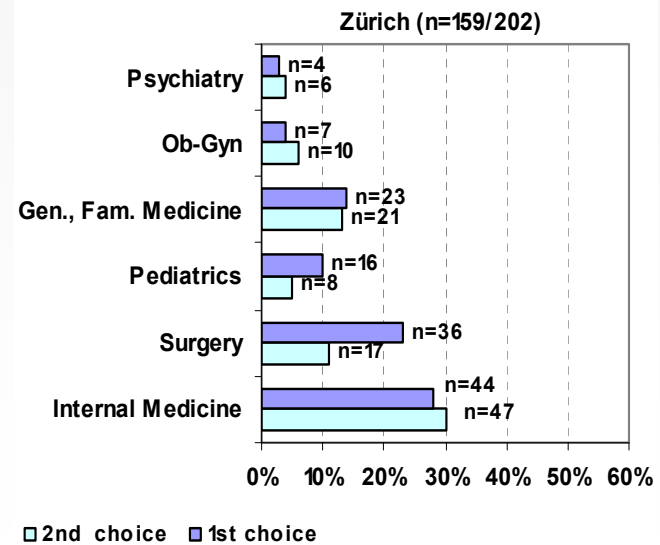
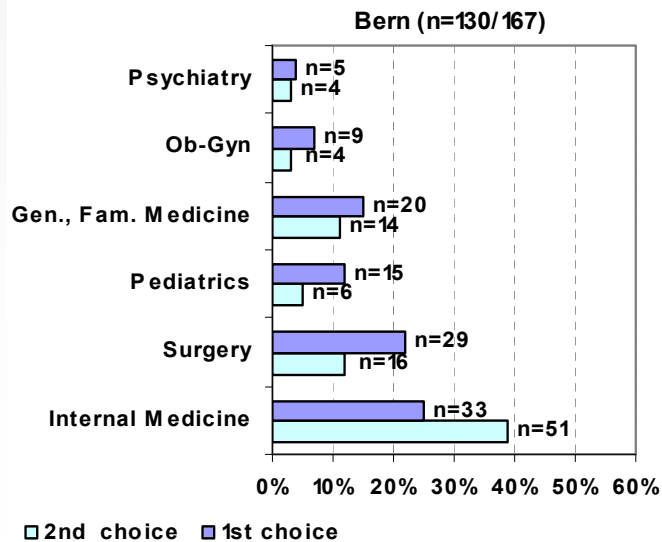
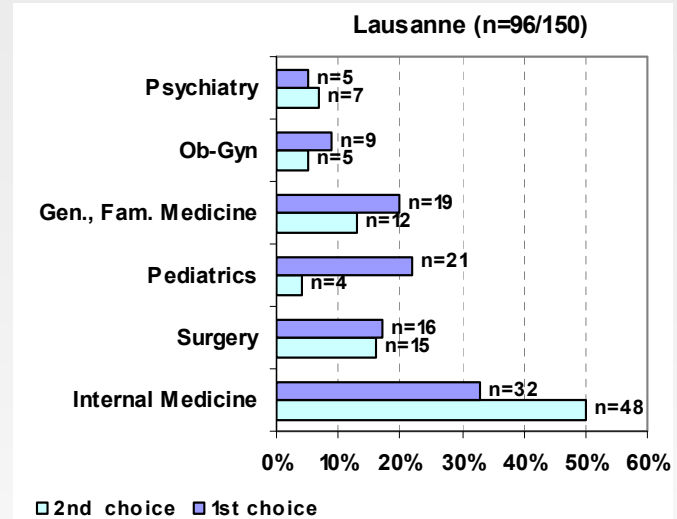
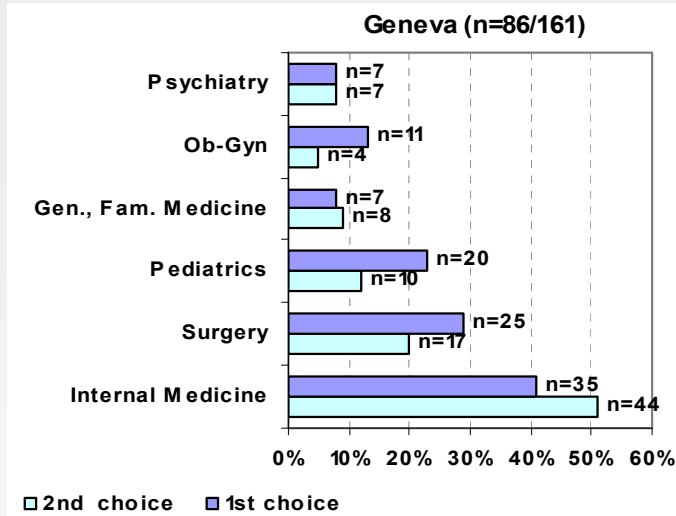


- A Difficulty choosing among many specialties
- B Have not decided yet
- C Insufficient information from faculty on specialty choices
- D Insufficient information from faculty on the process of residency application
- E Difficulty to find an interesting specialty
- F Did not look for the information
- G Lack of time
- H Difficulty to find residency positions

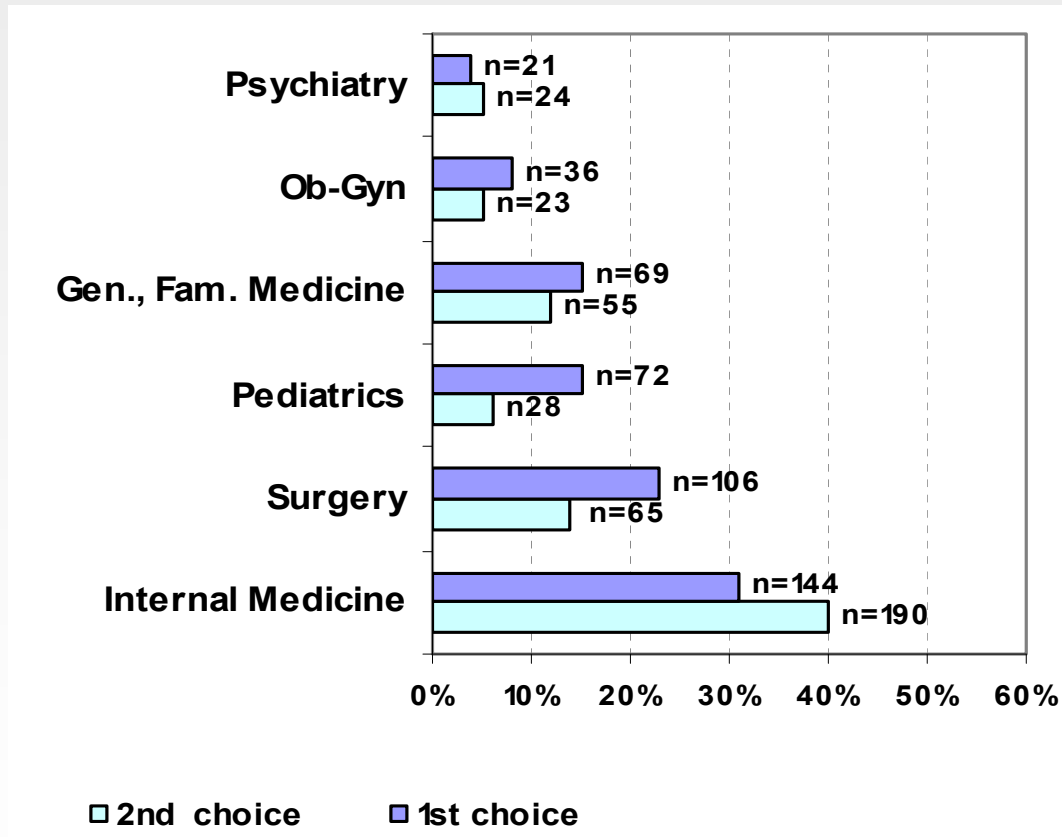
Reasons for not making a specialty choice – All 4 Faculty



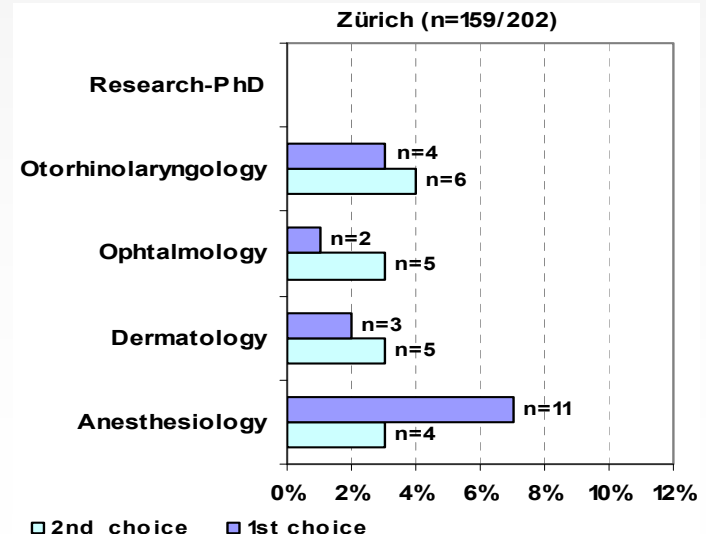
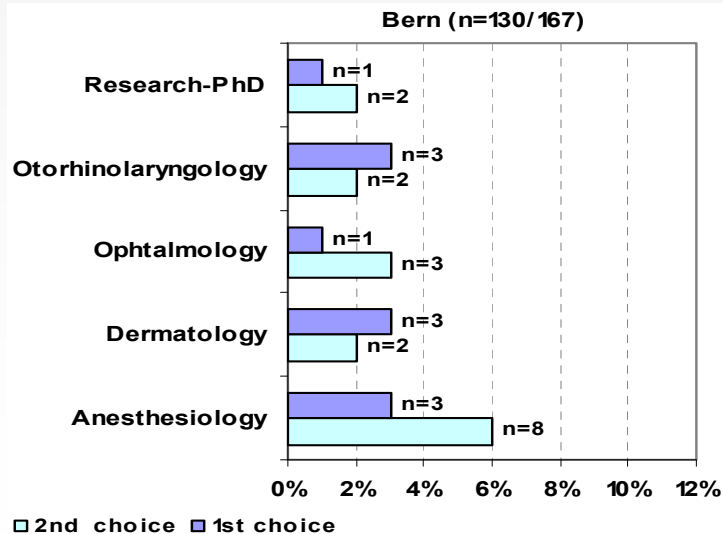
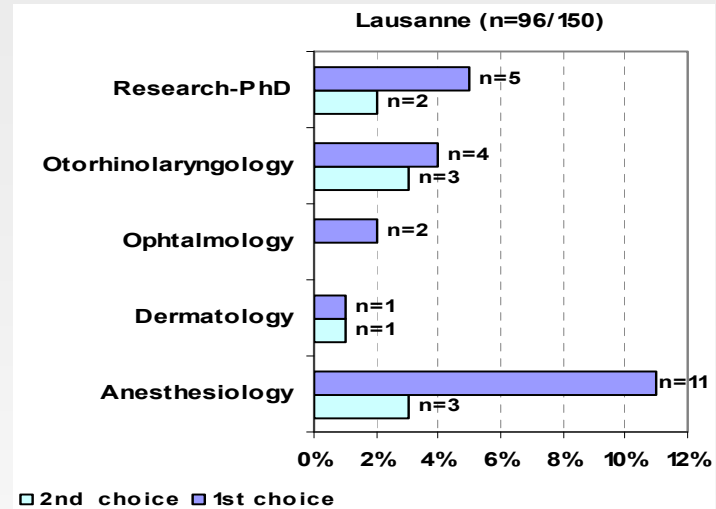
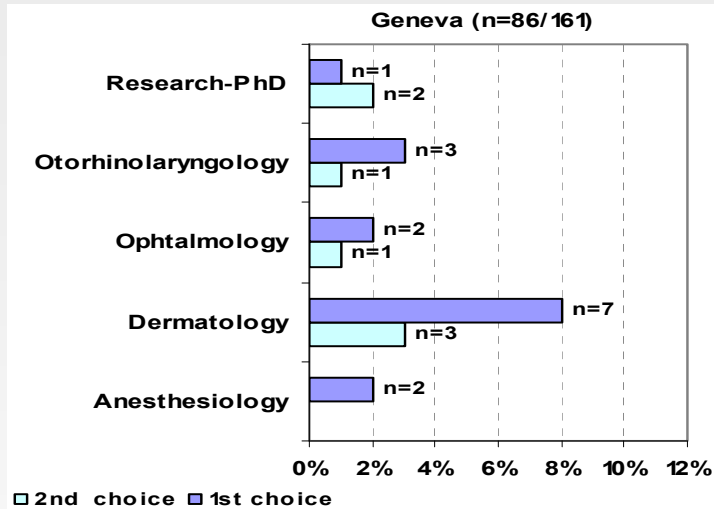
Specialty: 1st and 2nd Choices - by Faculty



Specialty: 1st and 2nd Choices – All 4 faculty (N= 471/680)

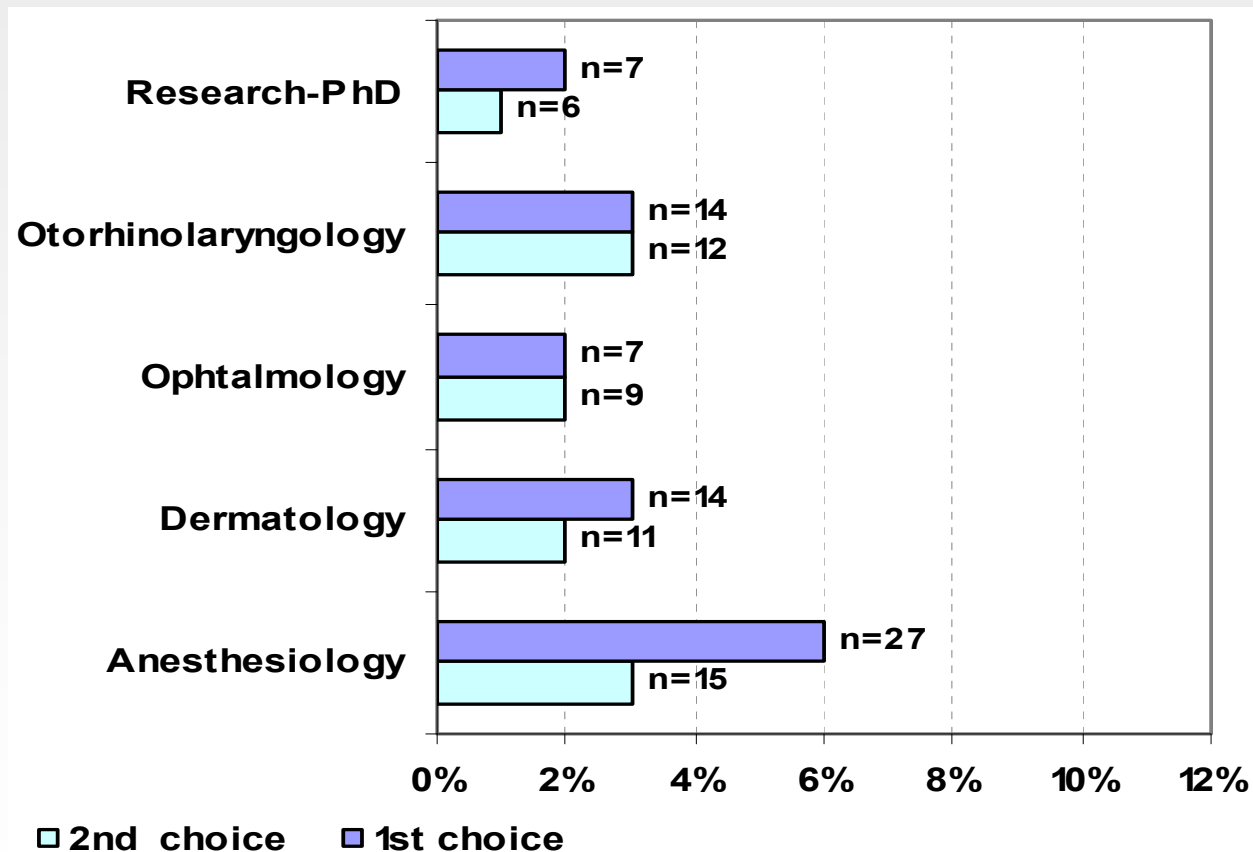


Subspecialty: 1st and 2nd Choices – by Faculty*



* Not listed are subspecialties not selected by the students or having an N ≤ 1 as 1st or 2nd choice.

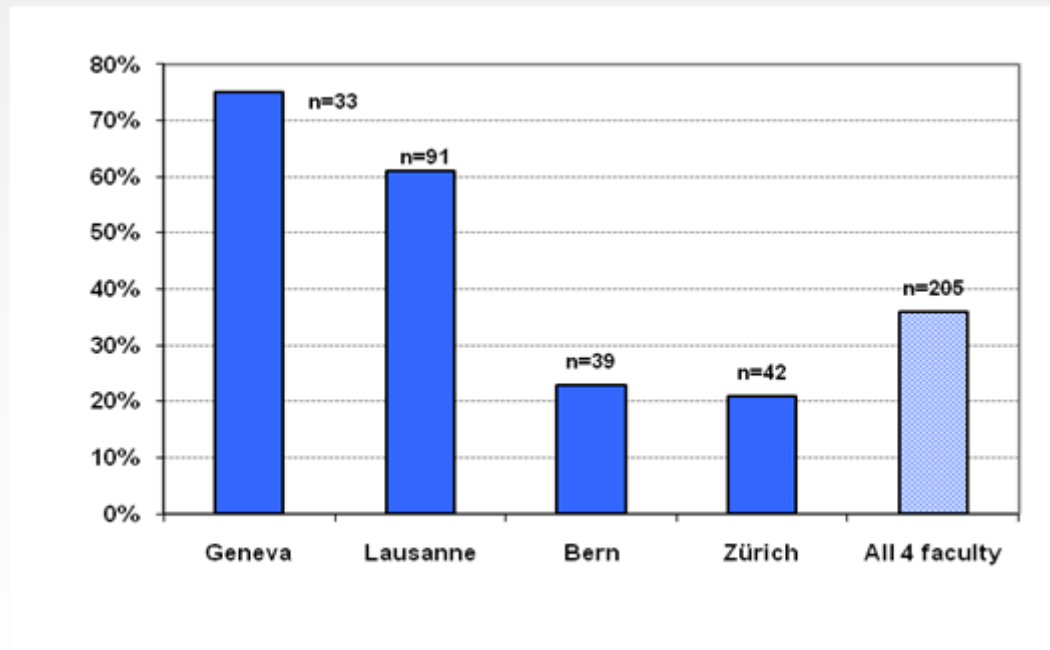
Subspecialty: 1st and 2nd Choices – All 4 Faculty* (N = 471/680)



* Not listed are subspecialties not selected by the students or having an $N \leq 1$ as 1st or 2nd choice

First year residency training and specialization – Choice of location

First-year residency training: N and % of students with choice of location already made *



* This item was asked to the students in Geneva (n=44) at the end of their 6th year in a separate survey questionnaire

First year residency training: Choice of location by canton and linguistic region - by Faculty

		Canton**				Linguistic region**		
		Geneva	Vaud	Bern	Zürich	Switzerland French-speaking	Switzerland German-speaking	Switzerland Italian-speaking
F A C U L T Y	Geneva (33/41)*	29% (2)	0% (0)	14% (1)	0% (0)	86% (6)	14% (1)	0%
	Lausanne (91/96)*	2% (2)	42% (38)	9% (8)	0% (0)	85% (77)	10% (10)	5% (4)
	Bern (39/130)*	0% (0)	0% (0)	72% (28)	3% (1)	5% (2)	95% (37)	0% (0)
	Zürich (42/159)*	0% (0)	0% (0)	2% (1)	67% (28)	2%(1)	91% (38)	7% (3)

* Number of students who found a residency position/ Number of students who made their specialty choice

** Percentages based on the number of students who indicated the location of their residency.

Main conclusions (1)

- **Medicine as a career**
 - Most Swiss students chose to study medicine between the age of 16 and 21.
 - About half to two thirds chose medicine with little or no hesitation.

- **Choice of professional practice :**
 - 71% chose to do clinical practice
 - 24% chose to be in an academic career
 - 3% chose to be in a non-academic career
 - 21% were undecided

Main conclusions (2)

- For those who chose an **academic career**, 95% chose to be involved in the area of clinical science (vs. basic science) related practice, teaching and research.
- For those who chose **clinical practice**:
 - 33% chose to practice in a group of 3 or more physicians
 - 33% chose to be employed in a hospital
 - 23% chose to be a partner with an other physician
 - 8% chose to practice in solo
 - 3% chose to practice in a “managed care” group

Main conclusions (3)

<p>± 30% chose Practice C</p>	<p>Providing episodic or long-term care of a limited number of medical problems that may include instrumentation and technical interventions. Mix of ambulatory and hospital-based practice.</p> <p>ex : internal medicine, cardiology, psychiatry, dermatology, obst/gynecology ...</p>
<p>± 40% chose Practice D</p>	<p>Providing first encounter health or illness appraisal, preventive education and interventions, episodic and long-term comprehensive care of a wide variety of medical problems. Primarily office-based.</p> <p>ex : family medicine, general medicine ...</p>

Main conclusions (4)

- 4/5 (Bern and Zurich) to 2/3 (Lausanne and Geneva) of the students chose their medical specialty training in their senior years
- Main reasons for not choosing specialty included:
 - Difficulty choosing among many specialties
 - Having not made the decision yet
 - Insufficient information from the Faculty (specific to Lausanne)

Main conclusions (5)

- **Choice of main specialty**

- 30% Internal Medicine
- 23% Surgery
- 15% Pediatrics
- 15% General/ Community Medicine
- 8% Obstetrics-Gynecology
- 5% Psychiatry

- **Location of residency training**

- Most students tended to choose to do their first years of residency training in a canton of their respective main speaking language.