

Academic ob-gyns challenged to balance demands, desires

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(HealthDay)—Academic obstetrician-gynecologists (ob-gyns) face challenges relating to the balance between patient care and academic demands, according to a study published online Oct. 7 in *Obstetrics & Gynecology*.

Linda Brubaker, M.D., from Loyola University Chicago, and colleagues used pooled cohort data for 329 ob-gyns across 14 U.S. institutions to describe the perceptions of academic ob-gyns.

The researchers found that 72.2 percent of respondents reported satisfaction with work-related autonomy and 81.9 percent reported a sense of accomplishment in their day-to-day activities, including understanding how those activities fit into their medical school's mission

(68.4 percent). Ob-gyn respondents reported working 59.4 hours on average each week, with the mean percentage of effort varying: patient care (54.8 percent), teaching (18.1 percent), research (17.0 percent), and administration (15 percent). More than one-third (35.1 percent) reported that too much of their time and effort was spent on [patient care](#), while more than half (59.5 percent) reported that too little of their time and effort was spent on research or teaching (33.3 percent). A substantial proportion reported seriously planning (13.4 percent) or being undecided (18.8 percent) about leaving their medical school in the next one to two years.

"Academic [obstetrics](#) and gynecology departments face challenges balancing faculty members' academic desires and clinical demands," the authors write.

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