

## **Sci 59 – A Tool to Help Support Foundation Doctors in Exploring Specialty Options**

***Looking for Careers Guidance wondering which specialty might suit you? It may be worth undertaking the Sci59 Online!***

### **What is Sci59 Online?**

Sci59 Online see <http://sci.cenmedic.co.uk/> is a resource to help medical students and junior doctors in training see how their skills, attitudes, preferences and aspirations map against specialties.

### **What does it do?**

Sci59 lists the career choices that provide a reasonable match to your personal profile and, importantly, those that have a very poor degree of match. Based on skills and attributes that consultants believe are critical to success in their field, Sci59 takes you through over a hundred questions about your preferred work settings, decision making styles, comfort with uncertainty and so on.

### **How long will it take?**

The process takes about 15 – 30 minutes but you can stop at any time and go back to finish the questions later.

### **Who should use it?**

Any final year medical student or junior doctor who is exploring specialty options or having a rethink at a later stage of their training should find it useful.

### **What do the results look like?**

The results are presented in four different formats:

#### **1. ‘Top Ten and Bottom Ten’ –**

This is a list of the ‘best’ and ‘poorest’ matches. This list should not be over interpreted but should be taken as a useful guide.

#### **2. ‘Full Listing’ –**

This is a full, rank ordered listing of all the specialties.

#### **3. ‘Comparative Results’ –**

This is a listing of the best matches with indications of the dimensions showing the closest fit.

#### 4. 'Graph' –

This is a graphical representation of your preferences in each of the 12 dimensions which are designed to cluster characteristics associated with specialty choices. The graph shows your attributes and skills against those of the 'average doctor'. The average of all doctors' responses is represented as '50' on the graph and each 10 units represent 1 standard deviation from the mean. A score of '30' or '70' demonstrates a dominant dimension in your profile.

#### **Is it Confidential?**

Yes, in the sense that the results are owned by you as a student/trainee. However, you are encouraged to discuss your results with others to get their feedback. Basic demographic data is requested for statistical and monitoring purposes in order to analyse and present anonymised career development choices on a regional or national scale. You can opt out of having your results and data stored in this way if you wish.

#### **What it doesn't do?**

Sci59 aims to provide food for thought and prompt further research – it does not tell you what to do! Use Sci59 results alongside information, advice and guidance from other sources, such as Royal College websites and the Health careers website. We would also strongly recommend that, in order to get the most out of using this tool, you seek help in interpreting the results with colleagues, educational and clinical supervisors or careers advisers.

#### **What happens to your results?**

Your results are stored, so you can refer to them again. You can also print off the results in various formats. Your user name allows you to answer the survey three more times within a certain time span – check when you login expires so that you can compare results as you progress.

#### **Can I do it again?**

You may wish to try it again and this is possible; however as with all assessment inventories of this type, you should wait for a reasonable interval before doing so. There is a danger that repeating any test too soon creates a working knowledge of it, which can then distort the respondent's objectivity in answering questions. You should also make sure that you use Sci59 when you are sure that you will have an opportunity to discuss it with local careers support (i.e. supervisor, tutor, etc). This will be more constructive than taking it "just for the sake of it".

#### **How can doctors access it?**

Sci59 is free to BMA members and can be accessed via their website, please note we no longer hold any logins for the system.

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