

**Comment on Najia Karim Ghanchi et al (J Pak Med Assoc. 2017; 2: 627-9)****Perception of pathology as a future career choice among medical Students from Karachi, Pakistan: Experience from a private medical school**

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Madam, given the importance of pathologists,<sup>1</sup> the brilliant efforts of Ghanchi et al.<sup>2</sup> in determining perceptions of pathology as a future career choice, are to be commended. However, we believe that some of the essential limitations have not been addressed, raising concerns about the authenticity of the study.

Firstly, it mentions "practicing pathology was financially less attractive", however, it also states that only "8.1%" students believed "lower incomes" were the cause of not pursuing pathology. Furthermore, statistical tests, which are of grave importance,<sup>3</sup> have not been applied to check if finance was a statistically significant factor. It also mentions "students were moderately satisfied". No data has been provided to show on what basis this distinction of "moderate" was made.

Secondly, it does not mention how bias was reduced. It states "students were approached randomly to participate", however, in these face to face interviews, it does not mention how interviewer and acquiescence biases were reduced and whether anonymity was ensured to limit response bias. Presence of bias has to be assumed always and it is the researcher's duty to

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show how it was reduced.<sup>4</sup>

Finally, it states "201 students participant survey forms were evaluated". However, it does not mention how this sample size was calculated, whether a frequency outcome factor or a confidence interval was employed. Adjustments for errors have also not been put into place. These common place mistakes and omissions<sup>5</sup> question the confidence with which the results of this study can be stated.

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**References**

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