

Pediatric Oncology Career Motivations

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Abstract

The motivations for employees in the field of pediatric oncology are not well understood. There is also little known about the occurrence of cancer survivors and their friends/family entering a pediatric oncology field as a result of their experience. We aim to understand which motivational factors influence pediatric oncology professionals to enter the field and whether these factors continue to motivate them today. A short RedCap survey will be provided to employees in the CHOP Cancer Center inquiring about their motivations for entering and continuing in pediatric oncology.

Background

How many people in the field of pediatric oncology are a cancer survivor themselves? Did this drive them to enter the field? What other factors sustain/inspire people to remain in such an emotionally taxing field?

- Pediatric cancer survivors face lifelong difficulties in school, employment, and with overall health
- Many survivors also report personal growth from the experience, a sense of wanting to give back, and wanting a future as a medical professional
- To date, there are no published studies looking at the motivations of nonclinical/physician/social workers in pediatric oncology

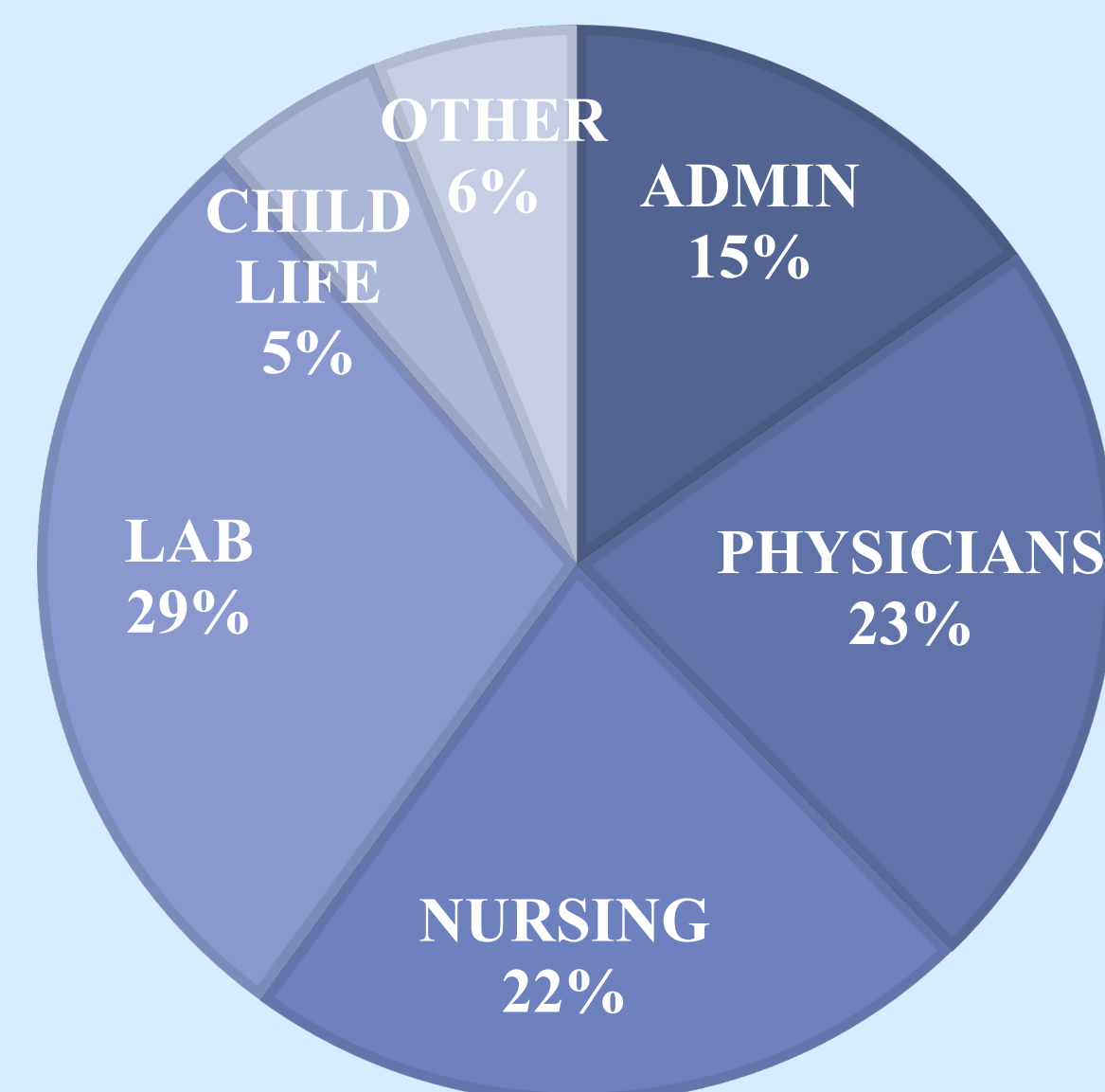
Goals

- 1 to understand which motivational factors influence pediatric oncology professionals to enter the field
- 2 to assess whether these factors continue to motivate them to remain in the field

Methods

A ten question de-identified RedCap survey was developed and distributed to the 450 personnel on CHOP Cancer Center distribution email list.

Sample: Administration, clinical, research, and other employees in the CHOP Cancer Center
Survey Recipients:



Results: Survey Generation

Section 1: Demographics

Section 2: Personal Cancer Experience

- Of oneself, a family member, or a close friend

Section 4: Rate Motivational Factors

- Meaningful work
- Experience as an oncology patient
- Oncology experience of a family member or close friend
- Interest in subject matter
- Patient contact/interactions
- Opportunities for improvement/innovation
- Prior exposure to the field
- Public perception/reputation
- Job market/earning potential
- Affinity/admiration of colleagues

Section 5: Degree of satisfaction with decision to enter the field

Section 6: In the future, would you be willing to speak with students interested in a career similar to yours?

We do not yet have the results for this survey however, I look forward to the discussions they will bring about. The survey is currently going through expedited IRB approval at CHOP.

Future Directions

- Analyze results and describe data through both descriptive and summary statistics
- Present and share findings with the community
- Identify the factors that draw people into the field of pediatric oncology in hopes of increasing opportunities for pediatric cancer survivors in the field
- Reflect upon the makeup of the faculty and staff and work towards a more inclusive and diverse work environment

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