The OSMS project is a collaboratively funded project for tracking medical students through medical school and into professional and vocational training. All Australian and New Zealand medical schools are involved in the project. In Australia, the project is currently managed by Health Workforce Australia and previously by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing. The project aims to understand the paths that medical students take from undergraduate education and training, rural, Indigenous education, and work-force planning.

Objectives

To obtain information on career intentions of all medical students in Australia and New Zealand, with particular reference to vocational choice, and intended geographic location of practice.

Design

Longitudinal cohort surveys undertaken at commencement of medical school studies (Comencing Medical Students Questionnaire (CMSQ), and postgraduate years 1, 3, 5, and 8).

Setting

All Australian and New Zealand medical schools.

Participants

Students are graduates and all Australian and New Zealand Medical Schools. Results presented here are based only on respondents from Australian medical schools.

Main outcomes measures

Selected outcome measures are:

- Career choices nominated by commencing and completing medical students.
- Profiles of career choices by gender of participants, and intended geographic location of practice.
- Future preferred location of practice and intention to practice in regional and rural environments.

Conclusions

The Medical Schools Outcomes Database and Longitudinal Tracking (MSD/LT) project is a longitudinal tracking project, involving all of a nation’s medical schools, which prospectively seeks information on vocational career intentions and intent for geographic location of practice for both commencing and completing medical students.

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Acknowledgements

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For further information on this project, visit the project website: www.medicaldeans.org.au