Could the undergraduate French and Belgian training program explain the shortage of GPs in both countries?

Introduction:
Shortage of manpower in GP/FM is a serious problem in Belgium and France. Despite the advertisement of some authorized voices, the evolution of the medical curricula in medicine has been oriented towards technology and specialties in the last 40 years and the low number of medical students attracted by the profession of GP is now a fact.

Aim:
To identify the elements of the curriculum influencing the choice of the career of general medicine by the students including the differences between the Family Medicine Training Program in France and Belgium.

Methods:
- Exploring the training programs of the two structures one in Reims, France and one in Brussels (University of Louvain), Belgium
- Participating in the vocational training sessions in both sites to meet the former interns
- Conducting an inquiry with trainees in GP/FM in both sites about their choice of career

Results:

- Women: 66% (French) 70% (Belgians)
- 15% of the students of the Master of family medicine in Belgium and France are not willing to become GP
- Place of general medicine until the end of the second cycle of medical studies between DMG- Reims and CAMG-UCL

Qualitative study on student’s opinions
Comparative study between DMG-Reims and CAMG-UCL

50% (F) & 81% (B) argue that the information given during the undergraduate curriculum don’t give incentive towards GP/FM

Conclusion for the improvement of general practice in the faculty of medicine

- General medicine must find its place in the course of the university as other specialties.
- The ambulatory medicine rotation must be established early in the studies and should be mandatory.
- The selection of future specialty must take into account the motivations of the student.
- A real chair of general medicine to create and be recognized within the university.

General practice is central to the system of care and must be the center of the Medical Faculty.

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