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Dear Medical Student,

Thank you for your interest in the field of Med-Peds.

The Med-Peds Section is a joint organization of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Physicians. Together these organizations welcome and encourage students who are interested in learning about Med-Peds. We invite you to explore with us the endless professional and career opportunities that are available within the Section and the field of Med-Peds. You will find experiences in this field to be challenging, rewarding, stimulating, sustaining... priceless.

Attached you will find a brief document outlining important information concerning the field of Med-Peds, as well as valuable resources that can provide you with specific information.

Dr. Meeks and I have had the opportunity to serve as members for the Student-Resident-Young Physician Committee of the Med-Peds section. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

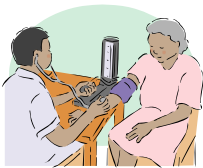
Section on Med-Peds
Committee on Students, Residents and Young Physicians

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Welcome to the World of Med-Peds! Docs for Adults, Docs for Kids

What is Med-Peds?

Med-Peds is a four-year combined residency program in internal medicine and pediatrics. During the entire four years of residency, a Med-Peds resident will switch between the two fields generally every 3-4 months. By the end of the four year program, a med-peds resident will have finished all major rotations required by both categorical pediatrics and categorical internal medicine programs. After residency, you sit for 2 board exams, one in pediatrics and one in internal medicine. These are the same board exams which are taken by the categorical residents. This enables you to be certified as an Internist AND a Pediatrician. After the completion of your residency, you have the option to do a fellowship in pediatrics, internal medicine, or both. Some residents opt to choose a fellowship which will carry over their experience in both internal medicine and pediatrics. Some residents opt to choose a job afterwards.

What kind of jobs do Med-Peds physicians get?

Med-Peds physicians can work as hospitalists, academic attendings, private clinicians, urgent care, emergency rooms; international health... the list is endless! Because Med-Peds allows you to be a flexible, diverse clinician, the job market is endless.

How is Med-Peds different from family practice?

Family practice is a three year residency program with a separate family medicine board exam after the completion of residency. Family practice residents also rotate through surgery, surgical subspecialties, Ob-Gyn, orthopedics, and musculoskeletal clinics. Their pediatrics and internal medicine training is more limited, and hence complicated patients may be referred to the general internist, general pediatrician, or Med-Peds physician. Med-Peds is a 4 year combined program, with 2 separate board examinations after the completion of residency. Med-Peds residents rotate through pediatrics and internal medicine only. In essence, Med-Peds physicians are general internists and general pediatricians after completion of residency and are more comfortable with ICU care and complex cases in pediatrics and internal medicine.

I can't decide between internal medicine and pediatrics. Should I choose Med-Peds?

NO. Oftentimes, students get confused and opt to apply for a Med-Peds program because they cannot decide between the two specialties. You must WANT to do BOTH internal medicine and pediatrics, and not simply because you cannot decide between the two. Most Med-Peds residents, when asked why they applied, say "If I did only pediatrics, I would feel unhappy because part of me would want to think through complex problems and discuss differential diagnoses. If I did solely internal medicine, I would miss working with children which I have always wanted to do. I know I wanted to work both with children and adults." Keep in mind, that as a Med-Peds physician, you will be rotating through both specialties and switching between the two, generally every 3-4 months. If you want to work both with adults and children, Med-Peds is for you!

Where do I find more information about Med-Peds?

There are several outstanding web sites:

- [National Med-Peds Residents Association \(NMPRA\)](#)
- [American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Med-Peds](#)
- [Med-Peds Program Directors Association Listing \(MPPDA\)](#)
- [American College of Physicians](#)
- [American Academy of Pediatrics](#)

What if I want to help write for the quarterly national student med-peds newsletter?

Yes! We would love to have you contact us. We are always looking for medical students to become involved in Med-Peds Section activities, including writers for our national quarterly newsletter for students. Here is our contact information again:

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