Background

In 2011, ABEM continued the practice of creating three distinct versions of the LSEP interim survey. The EM physician survey was sent to 1,180 physicians believed to be currently practicing EM or an EM subspecialty. A second survey was developed for retirees and was sent to 140 LSEP participants who had previously indicated that they were retired. A third survey was mailed to 98 participants who previously reported that they were no longer working in EM or an EM subspecialty.

This report presents final results from the survey sent to retired physicians. Results of the EM physician survey and the alternate occupation survey are described in separate reports.

Frequency distributions for all but the open-ended questions are presented in the attached annotated survey. The N’s reflect the number of people responding to each question. The first two questions are used to determine whether each person received the correct survey. N’s are shown only for those whose responses are retained for this survey. Apparent inconsistencies may occur when respondents answer questions they are instructed to skip or skip questions they should answer. Percentages may not always sum to exactly 100% due to rounding. The sum of percentages may exceed 100% when participants are asked to “circle all that apply.”

Results of the Retired Physician Survey

Two participants were removed from the list due to death, outdated address, or a request to be removed, leaving an effective sample size of 138 and a response rate of 42%. Nine reported they are still working, not retired. Those responding online were automatically directed to the survey questions appropriate to their situation, while those who responded on paper were counted in the response rate but are excluded from the count for the questions they were directed to skip on the retired physician survey. These physicians will receive either the EM physician survey or the alternate occupation survey in 2012, depending on their circumstances. The number of valid responses available for the final analysis on the retired physician survey was 49. Of these, 20 (41%) chose to complete the survey online. The results reported below are based on the responses of the 49 respondents.

Over 93% of the respondents reported feeling at least satisfied with their retirement. Of this group, 61% were ‘Very Satisfied.’ A majority (60%) have not used EM services as a patient since their retirement. Of those who responded to the question regarding recommending EM as a career to new medical school graduates, 71% said they would. Only 2% indicated they would not, and 27% indicated they might.

Each reason for recommending EM as a career was highly selected. The highest percentage (92%) was for the fact that EM work is interesting, challenging, exciting, and satisfying. Roughly 88% also indicated that the diversity of clinical practice and EM duties was a reason to pursue EM. The most common reason for a respondent to not recommend EM as a career was due to the difficulty of shift work (55%), followed closely by the stress of the job (43%).
1. You indicated on a prior survey that you are retired—that is, no longer regularly working for pay, either part-time or full-time, in any medical or non-medical occupation. Is this still true? (Circle Only One)

Yes ..................................... 1
No, I still work for pay ........... 5

(Circle Only One)
Yes ..................................... 1  (Skip 1b and go to Question 2, below 85%
No, I still work for pay ........... 5  (Go to Question 1b 15%

1b. In what area(s) do you currently work?  Not applicable for respondents retained for this survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREA</th>
<th>(Circle All That Apply)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Emergency Medicine (EM) ................................................................. 1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(includes EM clinical, administrative, academic, &amp; consulting)</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. EM subspecialty ........................................................................... 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>(includes MedTox, PedEM, SportsMed, UHM, HPM, EMS)</td>
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<td>c. Urgent care ......................................................................................... 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>d. Critical care EM ................................................................................... 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>e. Internal medicine ................................................................................. 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>f. Occupational medicine .......................................................................... 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>g. Physical &amp; rehabilitative medicine ....................................................... 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other medical (non-EM)  ............................................................................. 1</td>
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<td>(Please specify) ......................................................................................... 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (non-medical)  .................................................................................... 1</td>
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<td>(Please specify) ......................................................................................... 1</td>
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If you answered No to Question 1, after completing Question 1b, please go to Question 6.

2. Overall, how satisfied are you with your retirement? (Circle Only One)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not Satisfied</th>
<th>Satisfied</th>
<th>Very Satisfied</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>2%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>16%</td>
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</table>
3. How has your experience in EM influenced your activities in retirement?  (For example, are you involved in activities that make use of your EM experience? Or are there activities you avoid because of your experience as an EM physician?)  See attachment 1

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

4. Since you retired, have you used EM services as a patient? (Circle Only One)  N=48 (N missing=1); N for options other than Yes = 30

Yes .................... 1  Go to Question 4a  N=19 (40%)
No ..................... 5  Go to Question 5  N=29 (60%)

4a. What was your impression of EM as a patient?  See attachment 2

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

5. Would you recommend to new medical school graduates that they choose a career in EM?  N=49

(Circle Only One)

Yes .................... 1  71%
No ..................... 5  2%
Maybe ............... 3  27%

5a. Why or why not?  (Circle All That Apply)

a. EM work is interesting/challenging/exciting/satisfying ............................................. 1  92%
b. The pay is good in EM ........................................................................................... 1  61%
c. The clinical practice of EM and duties of EM physicians are diverse ....................... 1  88%
d. EM provides a unique opportunity to make a difference .......................................... 1  67%
e. It is rewarding to serve this patient population ...................................................... 1  59%
f. EM work is stressful ................................................................................................ 1  43%
g. Shift work/night shifts make EM difficult ............................................................... 1  55%
h. The pay is not so good in EM ............................................................ 1  6%
i. Risk of malpractice suits is high ......................................................................... 1  31%
j. The patients are demanding and/or unappreciative ............................................ 1  12%
k. EM working conditions are worsening (overcrowding, hospital politics, etc.) ....... 1  33%

Other ............................................................................................................................ 1  20%

Please specify  ............................................................................................................. See attachment 3
6. PLEASE MAKE ANY
NEEDED CORRECTIONS
TO THIS INFORMATION

COMMENTS: Please include any comments you have about this survey or issues related to Emergency Medicine and ABEM. Please print clearly so your comments can be noted.
See attachment 4

Please return this survey to ABEM by May 15, 2011. Thank you for your generous support. If ABEM can be of assistance, please call (517) 332-4800 or email us at research@abem.org.

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