An inquiry of the personality preferences of osteopathic medical students and their choice of residency specialty, using the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator.

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What is the MBTI?

• “The essence of the theory is that much seemingly random variation in the behavior is actually quite orderly and consistent, being due to basic differences in the ways individuals prefer to use their perception and judgment.”
Our study

The study is designed to compare the Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), which measures the personality preferences of osteopathic medical students to their choice of residency specialty.
Carl Jung: we all live in 2 worlds

- Some prefer the outer world
- Some prefer the inner world
- Preferences are “inborn predispositions”
- Shaped by environment, family, culture, education (outer world)
- MBTI measures the “inner world”
The MBTI® Dichotomies

The MBTI® instrument indicates preferences on four pairs of opposites, called *dichotomies*:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Extraversion</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>or</th>
<th>I</th>
<th>Introversion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sensing</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>or</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Intuition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thinking</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>or</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Feeling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judging</td>
<td>J</td>
<td>or</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Perceiving</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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16 Personality Types

ISTJ  ISFJ  INFJ  INTJ
ISTP ISFP INFP INTP
ESTP ESFP ENFP ENTJ
ESTJ ESFJ ENFJ ENTJ
D.O.’s vs. M.D.’s

- “Myers found that all MBTI types were admitted to medical school in approximately equal numbers” (Stillwell, et al).
- Does this apply to osteopathic doctors?
Our Results

- Approximately 63% of the respondents were identified as “Extraverts,” while approximately 37% were “Introverts.”

- This trend was, more or less, the same for each of the four specialties under investigation. There were no apparent differences in specialties when compared to the sample as a whole.

- Specialty is not significantly related to a person’s score on the Extraversion/Introversion portion of the Meyers-Briggs ($\chi^2=2.714$, $p = .438$).
Emergency Medicine

74% of the respondents identified as “Thinkers,” while 26% identified as “Feelers”
For Family Medicine

- 36% of the respondents identified as “Thinkers,” while 64% identified as “Feelers”
For Internal Medicine:

- 44% of the respondents identified as “Thinkers,” while 56% identified as “Feelers”
For Pediatrics:

- 19% of the respondents identified as “Thinkers,” while 81% identified as “Feelers”
In Summary

- The majority of respondents in Emergency Medicine were identified as “Thinkers,” while the majority of respondents in Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, and Pediatrics were identified as “Feelers.”

- The differences between these groups was more than would be expected by chance alone ($\chi^2=16.616$, $p = .001$).
How would the MBTI benefit an e-portfolio?
References
