



For Immediate Release:

**SURVEY: 50 OR MORE JOB SOLICITATIONS
NOT UNCOMMON FOR NEW DOCTORS**

16% of Final Year Medical Residents Receive Over 100 Job Contacts

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IRVING, Texas – The majority of physicians coming out of training have been contacted 50 times or more about job opportunities by potential employers, and some have received over 100 job solicitations, according to a new survey conducted by Merritt, Hawkins & Associates, a national physician search firm based in Irving, Texas.

“The job market for new physicians today is like a big box of chocolates,” notes James Merritt, president of Merritt, Hawkins & Associates. “New doctors can pick and choose until they find the kind of job they want.”

The survey asked 285 physicians about to complete their training how many times they had been contacted by potential employers seeking to recruit them during the course of their residencies. Fifty-two percent said that they had received 50 or more job solicitations during the course of their training, while 79% said they had received 26 or more job solicitations. Sixteen percent said they had received over 100 job solicitations, while only four percent said they had received 10 or fewer job solicitations.

According to Merritt, a national physician shortage is likely responsible for the large number of job solicitations directed at new doctors. The number of new physicians being trained in the United States has remained flat for over 20 years while the general population has become both larger and, on average, older, driving the need for doctors upward. As result, newly trained physicians in almost all specialties are in high demand.

The survey suggests that newly trained doctors expect to be well compensated in their first professional practice. Eighty-six percent expect to earn \$151,000 or more in their first professional practice, while 55% expect to make \$201,000 or more. The financial expectations of primary care physicians (family practitioners, general internists, and pediatricians) are more modest than those of specialist physicians, however. Only 18% of primary care physicians surveyed expect to earn \$201,000 or more in their first year of professional practice. According to Merritt, these expectations are not out of line with what new physicians are being offered as they come out of training.

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The survey conveys some bad news for rural areas, which traditionally have had a hard time attracting newly trained physicians. Virtually none of the new doctors surveyed would prefer to practice in communities of 25,000 or fewer. Over 80% of those surveyed would prefer to practice in communities of 100,000 or more. Only 8% of new doctors expressed a preference to work independently in solo practice settings. The great majority would prefer to be employed by medical groups or hospitals.

“New physicians today are looking for a more controllable lifestyle,” Merritt observes. “They don’t necessarily want to be doctors 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The employment option offers the lifestyle elements they seek without the hassles of practice ownership.”

A summary of Merritt, Hawkins & Associates’ 2006 Survey of Final Year Medical Residents can be accessed at www.merritthawkins.com or by calling (800) 876-0500.