

CAUTION!

FAMILY MEDICINE **MYTHS** DEBUNKED

Brought to you by a 4th year medical student and OAFP member

Learn how to respond to the most common myths you will hear during clinical rotations:

#1

MYTH: You're too smart for family medicine

FACT: You **have** to be smart... really smart.

"Thanks for the compliment! Family physicians manage a great variety of patients and conditions. We see ALL ages, genders, cultures, races, and religions. Not only that, studies show that populations with more primary care physicians have better quality of care at a **lower cost and live longer.**"

#2

MYTH: Nurse practitioners will be doing your job in the future.

FACT: There will be a shortage of between 21,000 and 55,000 primary care physicians by 2030 (per a study by the Association of American Medical Colleges published in 2019). Medicine is a team sport that **benefits from collaboration** of a multidisciplinary team.

"Actually, our country faces a huge shortage of physicians and primary care providers now and into the next 10 - 50 years. **Smart physicians are teaming up with other health care professionals**, including NPs, to help manage their patient panels more effectively and allow physicians to actually work at the **'top of their license.'**"

#3

MYTH: You'll never pay off your student loans.

FACTS: "For the 10th consecutive year, **family physicians** (FPs) were number one on the list of Merritt Hawkins' most requested physician recruiting assignments with an average starting physician salary of \$241,000. Also, 69% of CHCs report at least one FP vacancy (NACHC 2016). We are in a high demand specialty with numerous loan repayment options.

#4

MYTH: In family medicine you will only be caring for the chronic worried well.

FACT: Scope of practice according to 2017 AAFP survey: 36% doing inpatient, many doing procedures: (skin biopsies – 74%, joint injections – 65%, endometrial biopsy – 31%), 18% doing OB, and 74-80% seeing kids. Over **20 fellowship** options in FM!

"Family physicians see a huge variety of patients, manage complex diseases, and perform many different **procedures**. I also have the option of subspecializing to further enhance my training. This will give me many options to evolve my career over time if I want to change direction."