

# Methods of Further Education and Usage of Telemedicine by Physicians in the West Bank

## Survey Summary

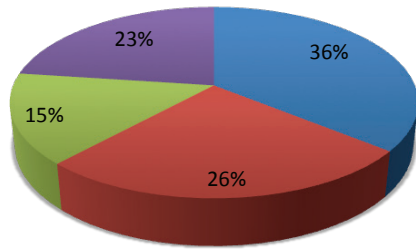
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- In 2012/2013 medipalestine used a questionnaire to collect data from 393 physicians practicing in the West Bank
  - those 393 were randomly chosen from 6800 physicians registered with the Palestinian Med. Assoc.
  - in terms of gender differences, female physicians are intentionally overrepresented in the survey
  - besides gender differences, the survey focuses on differences between different levels of education (GP or specialist) and different age groups
  - analysing distinctive governorates resulted in no significant regional differences
  - based on the results of this survey, medipalestine is evaluating future projects related to further education, especially telemedicine (e.g. virtual training, bringing together international national expertise in cancer care, etc.)
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# The factual composition of physicians questioned

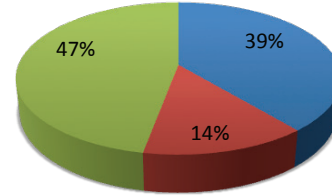
**AGE**

■ LESS THAN 30 ■ 30-40 ■ 41-50 ■ OVER 50



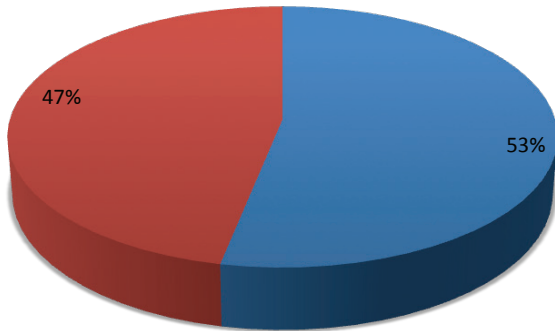
**EMPLOYMENT**

■ MOH HOSPITAL / PHC ■ NGO HOSPITAL / PHC  
■ PRIVATE HOSPITAL / CLINIC



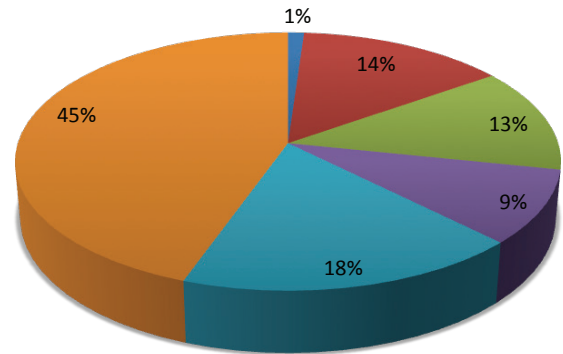
**EDUCATION**

■ GP ■ SPECIALIST



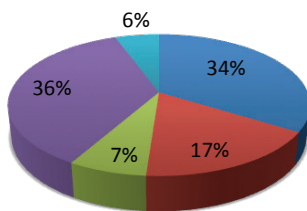
**KIND OF SPECIALIST**

■ ONCOLOGIST ■ GYNECOLOGIST ■ INTERNIST  
■ RADIOLOGIST ■ SURGEON ■ OTHERS



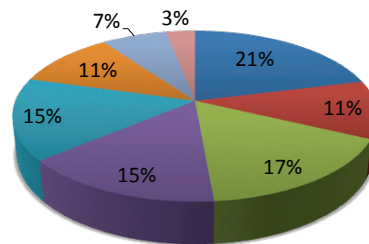
**POSITION**

■ RESIDENT ■ GP ■ HEAD OF DEPARTMENT ■ CONSULTANT ■ DIRECTOR



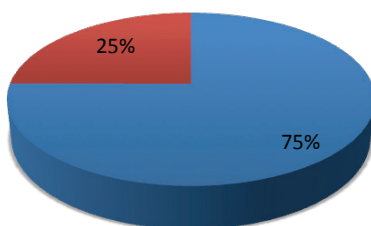
**GOVERNORATE/REGION**

■ HEBRON ■ BETHLEHEM ■ RAMALLAH ■ JERUSALEM  
■ NABLUS ■ TULKAREM ■ JENIN ■ QALQILIA



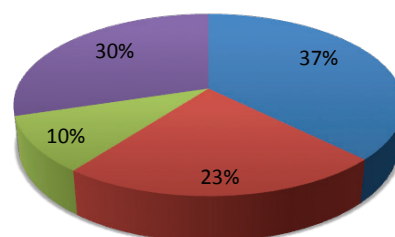
**GENDER**

■ MALE ■ FEMALE



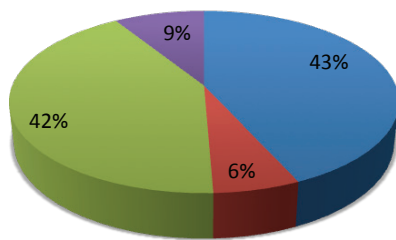
**YEARS OF PRACTICE**

■ LESS THAN 5 YEARS ■ 5-10 YEARS ■ 11-15 YEARS ■ MORE THAN 15 YEARS



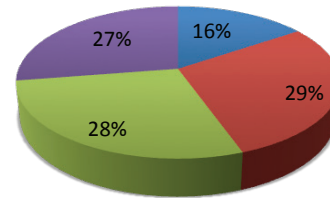
## WHAT IS THE MAIN METHOD OF FURTHER EDUCATION?

■ BOOKS ■ MAGAZINES ■ INTERNET ■ CONFERENCES



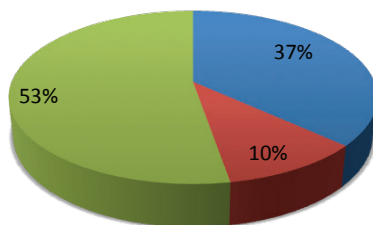
## HOW MANY CONFERENCES DO YOU USUALLY ATTEND PER YEAR?

■ NONE ■ ONE ■ TWO ■ MORE THAN TWO



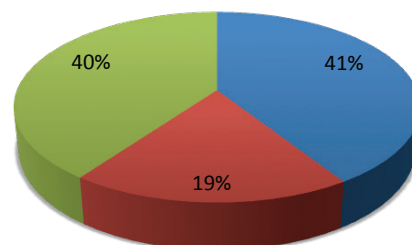
## IF YOU ATTEND CONFERENCES, WHAT KIND ARE THESE?

■ NATIONAL ■ INTERNATIONAL ■ BOTH



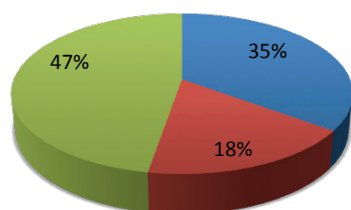
## IF YOU GO TO CONFERENCES, WHOSE INITIATIVE IS IT?

■ SELF ■ EMPLOYER ■ PHARMA INDUSTRY



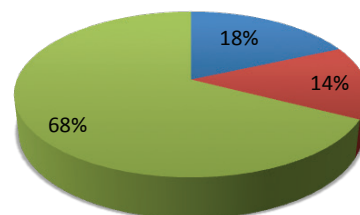
## ON AVERAGE, HOW MUCH ARE YOU SPENDING ON FURTHER EDUCATION PER YEAR?

■ LESS THAN 100\$ ■ 100\$ -200\$ ■ EQUAL OR MORE THAN 300\$



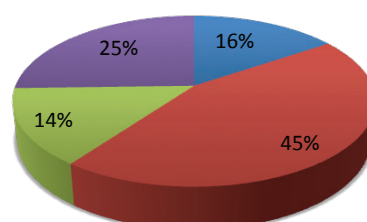
## ON AVERAGE, HOW MUCH ARE YOU WILLING TO SPEND ON FURTHER EDUCATION PER YEAR?

■ LESS THAN 100\$ ■ 100\$ -200\$ ■ EQUAL OR MORE THAN 300\$



## WHICH FIELD OF FURTHER EDUCATION DO YOU LOOK FOR?

■ NEWEST PUBLICATIONS ■ DIAGNOSTICS ■ SURGICAL PROCEDURES ■ ALL



### Age (<40 vs. >40 y/o):

- Younger physicians use more books compared to older physicians, who rather use magazines and conferences as their main method of further education.
- Older physicians attend significantly more conferences, especially more international ones, than younger physicians, who rather attend national conferences.
- Younger physicians spend significantly less money on further education than older ones but all would be willing to spend more money, especially the younger ones.
- Young physicians tend to pursue more intensively further education related to the field of surgical procedures than older ones.

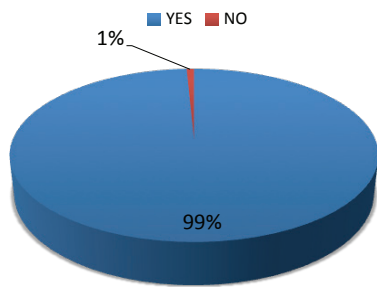
### Gender (female vs. male):

- Female physicians tend to use more books and less internet as a main method of further education than their male counterparts.
- There is no gender difference in the number of visits to conferences, but males tend to visit international ones more often than females.
- Despite the fact that women are willing to spend as much on further education as men, men are still spending significantly more.
- Female doctors tend to pursue more intensively further education related to the field of diagnostics than male doctors.

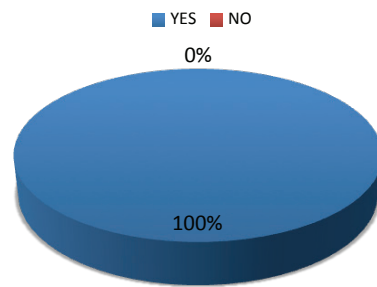
### Education (GP vs. specialist):

- GPs use mainly books, whereas specialists read significantly more magazines and rather attend conferences for further education purposes.
  - Specialists attend more international conferences than GPs. Furthermore, they significantly attend more conferences in total than GPs.
  - Specialists also spend significantly more money on further education than GPs, whereas both groups would be willing to spend more.
  - GPs are significantly more focused on the field of diagnostics than specialists are.
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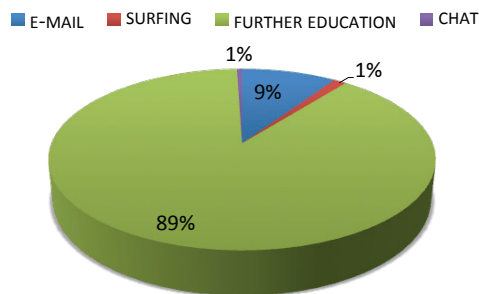
**DO YOU HAVE A PERSONAL COMPUTER?**



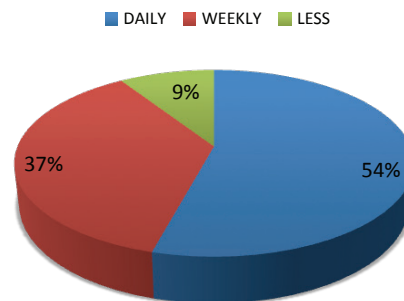
**DO YOU USE THE INTERNET?**



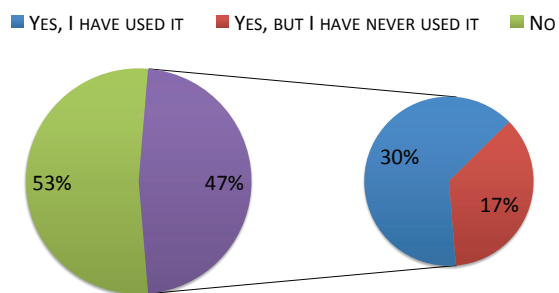
**IF YOU USE THE INTERNET, FOR WHAT PURPOSES?**



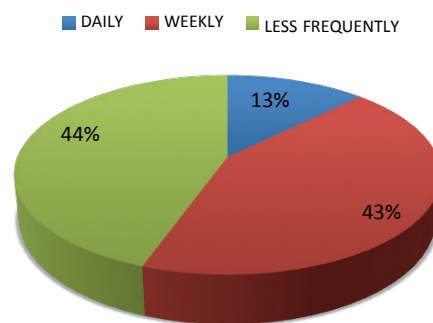
**IF YOU USE THE INTERNET FOR FURTHER EDUCATION, HOW OFTEN?**



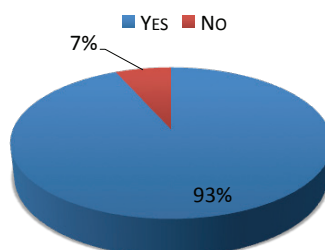
**ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE TELEMEDICINE OPTION? IF YES, HAVE YOU EVER USED IT?**



**IF YOU USE THE TELEMEDICINE OPTION, HOW OFTEN?**

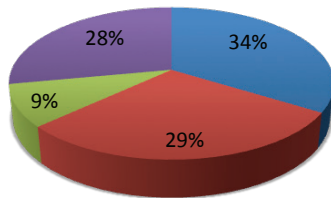


**IF YOU HAVE NEVER USED TELEMEDICINE, WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO USE IT?**



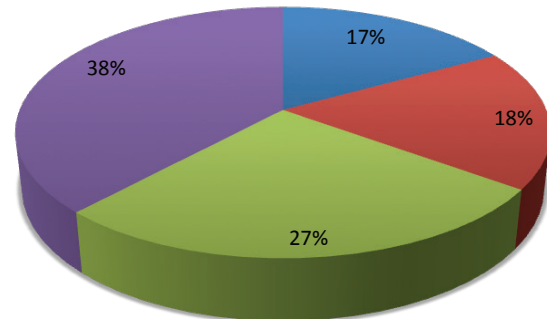
## DO YOU HAVE CONTACT WITH THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY FOR SECOND OPINION PURPOSES?

■ NONE ■ NATIONAL ■ INTERNATIONAL ■ BOTH



## HOW OFTEN DO YOU USE THIS METHOD?

■ MORE THAN ONCE PER WEEK ■ ONCE PER WEEK  
■ ONCE PER MONTH ■ LESS THAN ONCE PER MONTH



## Noteworthy differences regarding use of internet and the telemedicine method

### Age (<40 vs. >40 y/o):

- Younger physicians tend to use the internet more often for further education on a daily basis than older ones.
- Young doctors are significantly less familiar with the telemedicine method than older ones. Once familiar with it, younger doctors still use it less often.
- Significantly fewer young physicians have contact with the medical community for second opinion purposes, especially with the international one.

### Gender (female vs. male):

- Significantly fewer female doctors are familiar with or use the telemedicine method. Once in use, there is no significant difference in the frequency of use.
- More male doctors have contact with the medical community for second opinion purposes. The differences here can be explained by the international contacts.

### Education (GP vs. specialist):

- Compared to specialists, fewer GPs are familiar with the telemedicine method. Once familiar with it, there is no significant difference in the frequency of use.
- Specialists have significantly more contact with the medical community for second opinion purposes, both national and international.
- Once in use, there is no difference in the frequency of using the second opinion method.

medipalestine thanks all doctors who participated in this survey for their valuable contribution.

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