

## International Summer Conference: Inequalities in Medicine, *I2MS*, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2022.

### Reporting the inequalities in the access to medical school depending on applicant's self-perception: Medical Schools Council's Report.

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#### **Abstract -**

The socio-economic inequalities associated with access to medical school are highlighted in the Medical School Council's (MSC) report where there is a significant gap between the number of medical school applicants who come from disadvantaged areas and the number of medical school applicants from advantaged backgrounds<sup>1</sup>. Reports highlight that this inequality is driven by the perception young people from low socio-economic backgrounds have of themselves<sup>2</sup>.

The MSC report uses the Multiple Deprivation Index to assess the deprivation of an area which illustrates individuals from deprived areas on average make up 4.8% of medical school applicants annually<sup>1</sup>. Data collected from The Medical Student Personal Beliefs Questionnaire highlight the different attitudes displayed in students from affluent areas and non-affluent areas. Overall, students from disadvantaged areas believe that medicine is not accessible to them. Differently, the students from higher socio-economic backgrounds believed that medicine is something that they can see themselves fulfilling. Less affluent students believe that having a higher social class and receiving superior education would provide them with an edge in the admissions process<sup>2</sup>.

Individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds perceive themselves as not worthy to practise medicine. Surely, with more doctors being established from lower socio-economic backgrounds there will be more doctors representative of the patients they serve.

Therefore, for the morale of university applicants and the future of medicine, schools need to help further break down the stereotype that medical school is only accessible if you come from a background of wealth and a family line of doctors.

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