

# Career Aspirations in Oncology: Insights from Nigerian Medical Students

## Sociodemographic Information

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### 1. Age

*As at last birthday*

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### 2. Gender

Male  Female

### 3. Marital status

Single  Married  Separated  
 Divorced

### 4. Nationality

Nigerian  Others

Others, please specify

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### 5. Highest level of education

SSCE  Bachelor  Masters  
 Doctoral (PhD)

**6. Name of medical school**

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Abia State University                            | <input type="radio"/> Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University   |   |
| <input type="radio"/> Afe Babalola University                          | <input type="radio"/> Ahmadu Bello University             | <input type="radio"/> Ambrose Alli University     |
| <input type="radio"/> Babcock University                               | <input type="radio"/> Bayero University                   | <input type="radio"/> Benue State University      |
| <input type="radio"/> Bingham University                               | <input type="radio"/> Bowen University                    |   |
| <input type="radio"/> Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University           | <input type="radio"/> Delta State University              |   |
| <input type="radio"/> Ebonyi State University                          | <input type="radio"/> Edo University                      | <input type="radio"/> Ekiti State University      |
| <input type="radio"/> Enugu State University of Science and Technology | <input type="radio"/> Federal University, Dutse           |   |
| <input type="radio"/> Gombe State University                           | <input type="radio"/> Gregory University                  | <input type="radio"/> Igbinedion University       |
| <input type="radio"/> Imo State University                             | <input type="radio"/> Kaduna State University             |   |
| <input type="radio"/> Ladoke Akintola University of Technology         | <input type="radio"/> Lagos State University              |   |
| <input type="radio"/> Madonna University                               | <input type="radio"/> Niger Delta University              | <input type="radio"/> Nile University             |
| <input type="radio"/> Nnamdi Azikiwe University                        | <input type="radio"/> Obafemi Awolowo University          | <input type="radio"/> Olabisi Onabanjo University |
| <input type="radio"/> Osun State University                            | <input type="radio"/> Pamo University of Medical Sciences |   |
| <input type="radio"/> Rivers State University                          | <input type="radio"/> University of Abuja                 | <input type="radio"/> University of Benin         |
| <input type="radio"/> University of Calabar                            | <input type="radio"/> University of Ibadan                | <input type="radio"/> University of Ilorin        |
| <input type="radio"/> University of Jos                                | <input type="radio"/> University of Lagos                 | <input type="radio"/> University of Maiduguri     |
| <input type="radio"/> University of Medical Sciences                   | <input type="radio"/> University of Nigeria               | <input type="radio"/> University of Port-Harcourt |
| <input type="radio"/> University of Uyo                                | <input type="radio"/> Usmanu Danfodiyo University         |   |

**7. Current level in medical school**

- 400                       500                       600

**8. History of cancer diagnosis or death due to cancer in the family**

- Yes  
 No

Knowledge of oncology specialty among medical students in Nigeria

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1. The following are subspecialties of oncology

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**1a. Surgical oncology**

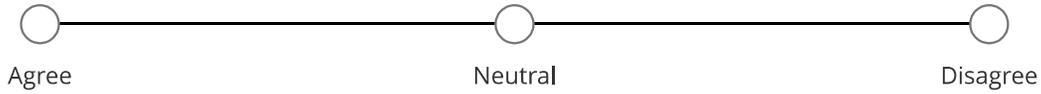
- Yes                       No                       Don't Know

**1b. Medical oncology**

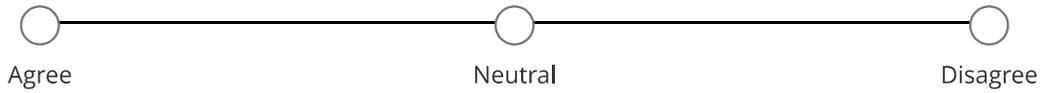
- Yes                       No                       Don't Know



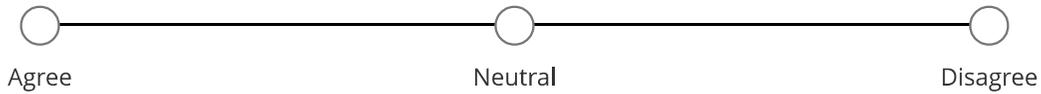
**1. Oncology is a male-dominated specialty**



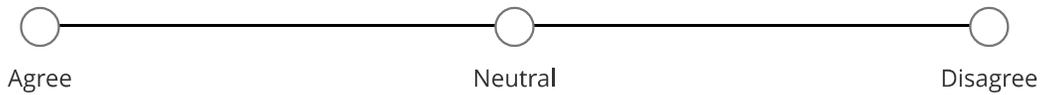
**2. Oncology has reasonable work-life balance**



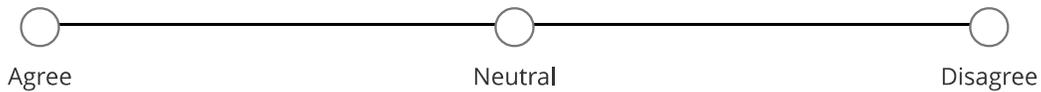
**3. The working hours are well-regulated**



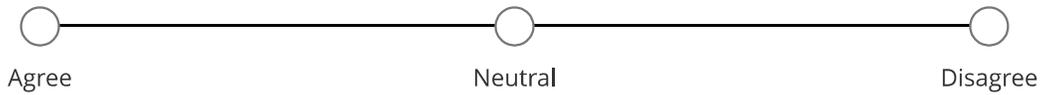
**4. There is heavier workload relative to other specialties**



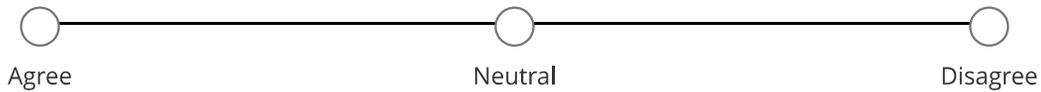
**5. Insufficient and inadequate facilities for providing oncological care.**



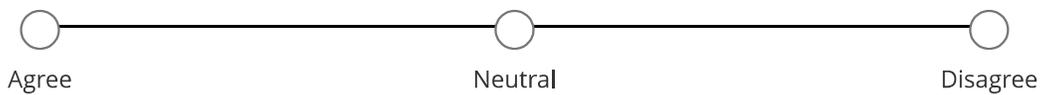
**6. Radiation exposure is a notable concern in the field of oncology**



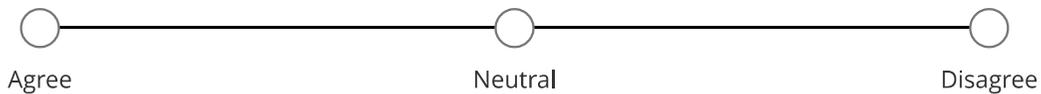
**7. Career choices are affected by patients' poor prognoses**



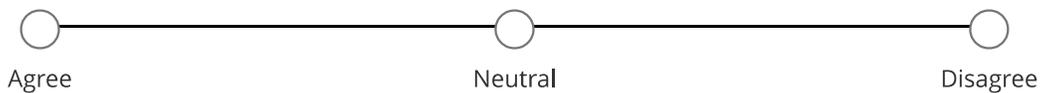
**8. Oncology is a depressing field**



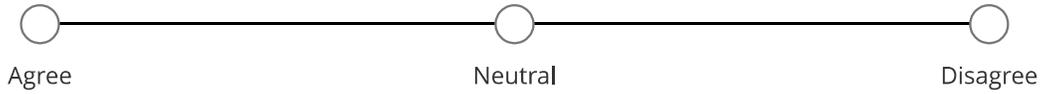
**9. Long-term patient relationships can be exhausting**



**10. Limited job opportunities due to saturation in the oncology field**



**11. Oncology is a field that is advancing and focused on research**



Future Prospects and Career aspirations

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1. How would you rate your interest in oncology  
*(Using a scale of 0 – 10, 0 = No interest and 10 = Highest level of interest)*

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**1a. Prior to entering medical school?**



**1b. At this point in time?**



**1c. How likely are you to pursue a career in oncology?**



2. Rate your interest in the following oncology career pathways  
(Using a scale of 0 - 10, 0 = No interest and 10 = Highest level of interest)

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**2a. Clinical oncology**



**2b. Medical oncology**



**2c. Surgical oncology**



**2d. Radiation oncology**



**2e. Clinical research (e.g. clinical trials)**



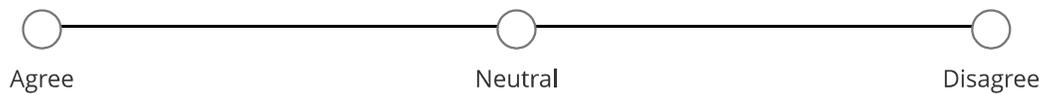
**2f. Scientific research (e.g. laboratory, pre-clinical)**



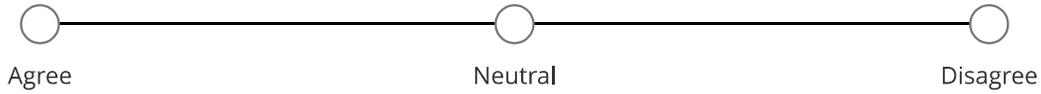
Possible Facilitatory Factors Influencing Oncology as a Career Choice

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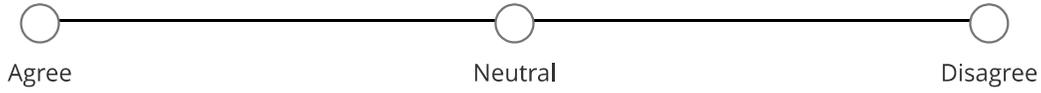
**1. Motivation during clinical rotations or mentorships**



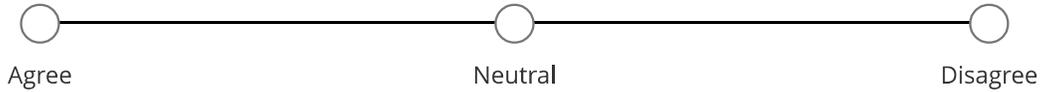
**2. Influence of role models, senior specialists, and staff support**



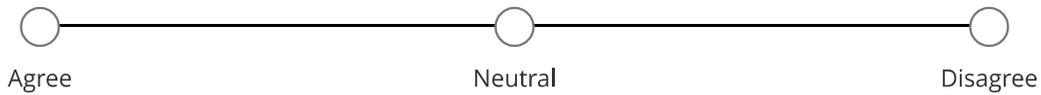
**3. Influence from family**



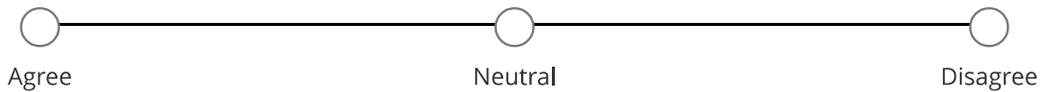
**4. Influence from peer**



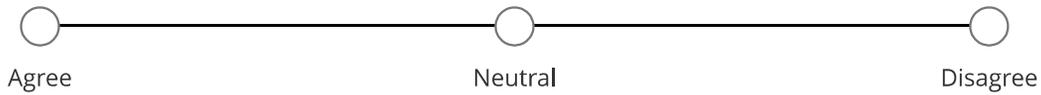
**5. Guarantee of a lucrative salary, substantial financial benefits, and high earning potential.**



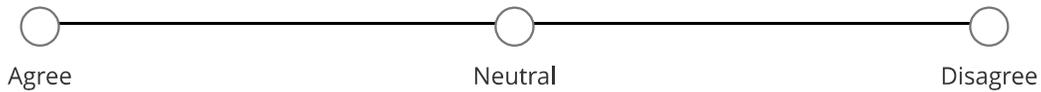
**6. Possibility of multiple job opportunities, job security, and the option for self-employment.**



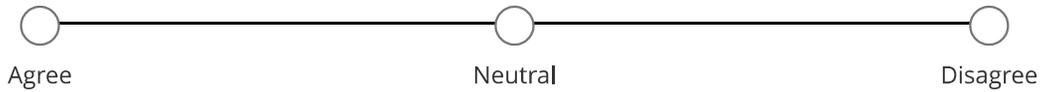
**7. Shortage of specialists in the country**



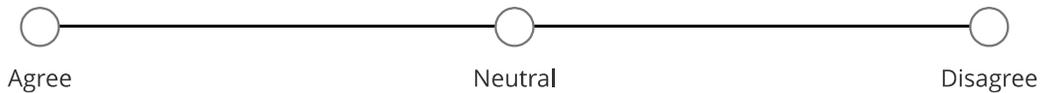
**8. Intellectual content of specialty/intellectual challenge**



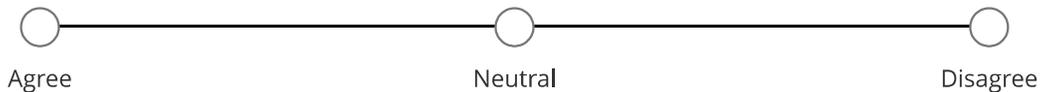
**9. Structured lifestyle: minimizing unnecessary calls, maintaining shorter working hours, and having flexible scheduling options**



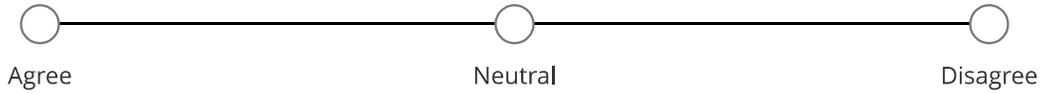
**10. Prestige or high social status**



**12. Focus on long term care**



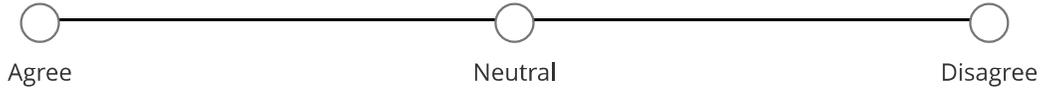
**13. Potential for research and career development in academic teaching**



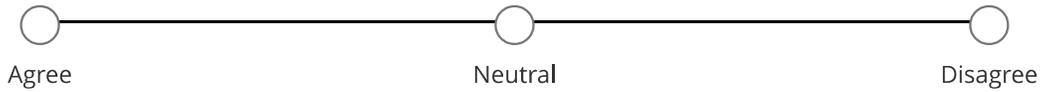
Possible barriers to choosing oncology as specialty of choice

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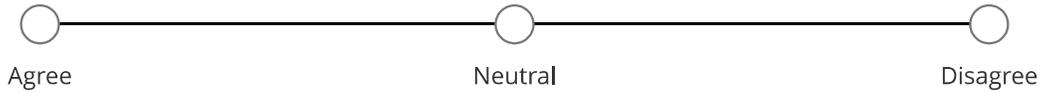
**1. Getting residency placement is hard**



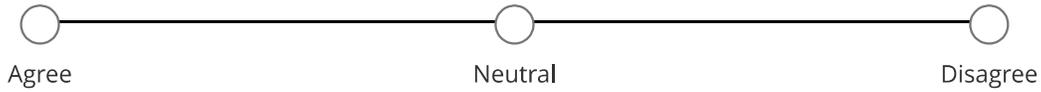
**2. Duration of training longer compared to other specialty**



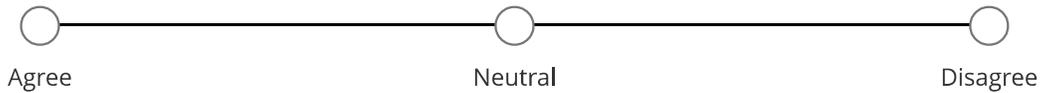
**3. Rigours of residency program is too much to handle**



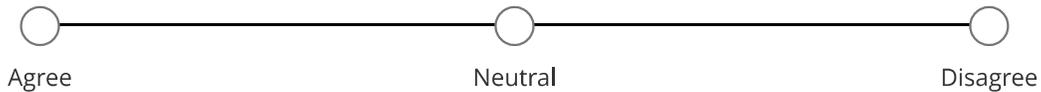
**4. Unacceptable hours of practice**



**5. Professional isolation**



**6. Lack of work-life balance**



**7. Being an oncologist will affect my plans to have family**

