

RIDE THE HEALTH SECTOR BOOM

There's never been a better time to opt for a career in healthcare. NATASHA PATHAK spoke to experts at a recent CII workshop on the hottest career options

Graphic: SUNIL GUPTA

TOP DOC JOBS



HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT

- The sector is teeming with jobs. You could become a hospital administrator and take care of HR, marketing, and medical billing, among a host of other things.
- You will need degree in healthcare management to give you an entry point into the field.
- You can eventually become the CEO of the hospital and even set up your own hospital.

BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

- You could do cutting-edge medical research as a biomedical engineer, and help in the development of an artificial heart, artificial organs, artificial limbs and the use of laser in surgery.
- Since biomedical research encompasses a broad area of study — mechanical, chemical, anatomy and physiology, you can expect to be much in demand in research institutes as a biomedical engineer.

ENDOCRINOLOGY

- Careers in endocrinology are projected to be among the most sought-after globally in the next five years.
- The global market for Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) has been growing annually at 10.4 per cent and is expected to be worth \$25.9 billion by 2013, creating a huge demand for well-qualified endocrinologists. India especially needs them to tackle diabetes.

CARDIOTHORACIC SURGEONS

- India may have 100 million heart patients by 2020, warn experts. There is an urgent need for cardiothoracic surgeons who can perform valve repairs, off-pump coronary and homograft valve surgeries to help put the nation's health back on its feet.

Companies manufacturing skincare products are in dire need of experts in tissue engineering and protein crystallisation techniques.

DR. BS SHASTRI, Medical Director, Johnson and Johnson



A 'sweet' challenge

As the world's diabetes capital, India has a critical need for endocrinologists

WITH 50.8 million diabetics, India is the world's unchallenged diabetes capital. But diabetes isn't the only hormonal disorder that afflicts a staggering number of Indians. An estimated 108 million people suffer from hormonal disorders in the country. In such a scenario, it is hardly surprising that endocrinologists are among the most sought-after professionals in India.

An extremely specialised field of study, endocrinology

involves the study of areas such as gene mutations and the identification of congenital anomalies of pituitary, thyroid and endocrine glands. "In India, there is a pressing need for endocrinologists to tackle diabetes. The number of diabetics is expected to go up to a whopping 87 million in the next two decades," cautioned Dr. Krishna G Seshadri, Professor and Head, Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism, Sri Ramchandra University, Chennai.

An endocrinologist can take home anything between ₹20,000 to ₹2 lakh per month. That's quite a sweet incentive to embark on a study of hormonal disorders.



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How to run hospitals

The lucrative healthcare management sector is growing at 15 per cent every year

KAUSHIK ROY



A healthcare management professional needs to have a whole range of skills — from financing to policy formulation. The salaries could start at ₹20,000

DR. SHUBNUM SINGH
VP, Medical Affairs, Max Healthcare

If you thought healthcare only enlisted doctors into its fold, step into the all-new world of healthcare managers. With corporate hospitals catering to the crème-de-la-crème, health care management, which comes with shades of hospitality

more — jobs are set to double in the next couple of years.

"Planning, policy formulation, financing, resource planning, material management, hospital accreditation and research methodology are all part of the job profile," said Dr. Shubnum Singh, VP, Medical Affairs, Max Healthcare Institute Limited. "Salaries could start at ₹20,000 and go up

Be patient with patients

A commitment to patients should be the foremost consideration driving doctors and not fat pay cheques

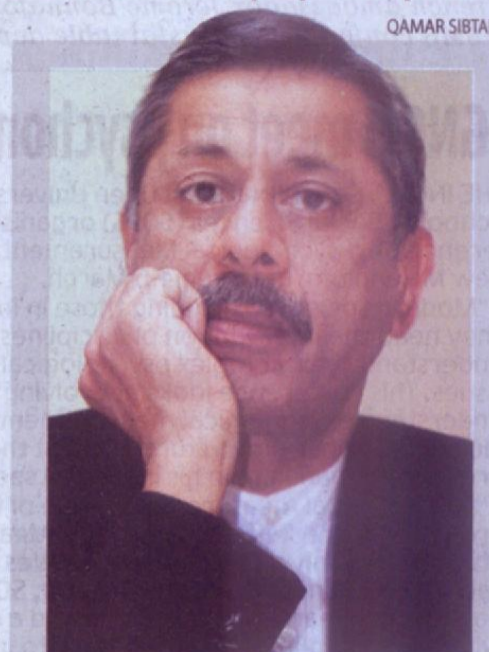
THERE is no better time than now to be a part of the healthcare industry, Dr. Naresh Trehan, a leading cardiovascular surgeon and CMD, Medanta-The Medicity speculates a magnificent future ahead for those venturing into a career in medicine. “The healthcare industry can easily absorb about 25,000 doctors every year for the next ten years,” he said.

After three years of residency, doctors can hope to rake in packages worth a lakh of rupees every month in private hospitals. “This is likely to double every three to four years,” pointed out Trehan, who was speaking at a recent CII workshop on ‘Reform in Healthcare Education.’

The best thing about a career in medicine, says the good doctor, is that you can achieve professional success — and also have a lot of job satisfaction that comes from helping others. Beware of falling into the trap of worshipping Mammon, though.

“You need to steer clear of ego and greed,” stressed Trehan. Doctors looking for good employment prospects need to demonstrate three specific qualities, he added. “Have lots of patience, show that you can work under duress and avoid neglecting patients.”

Though there is a shortfall of faculty in medical colleges and too few institutes offering quality medical education, six more AIIMS-like institutions are in the pipeline and twenty existing institutions will be strengthened fur-



QAMAR SIBTAIN

“The healthcare industry can easily absorb about 25,000 doctors every year for the next decade”

DR. NARESH TREHAN
CMD, Medanta-The Medicity

ther to absorb more students.

There’s an array of exciting fields to choose to specialise in. “Orthopaedics, transplants, stem cell research, bi-molecular medicine and genetics are all emerging fields to explore,” advised Trehan.