

## OP23

### First Year Biomedical Students: How do They Compare with Non-biomedical Students in Terms of Motivation, Enjoyment of Competition, and Quality of Life

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**Introduction:** Considerable research has investigated the wellbeing status of biomedical students, however fewer studies have studied how well biomedical students fare in relation to their higher education peers. In this study, we compare the quality of life and learning experiences of biomedical students with non-biomedical students.

**Method:** Students from three universities were invited to participate in this study. These included students from the University of Auckland biomedical programme (New Zealand), psychology students studying at the Auckland University of Technology (New Zealand), and general education psychology students studying at West Chester University (USA). The comparison measures included the Motivated Strategies for Learning Questionnaire, the World Health Organisation Quality of Life Questionnaire (BREF), and the Revised Competitiveness Index.

**Findings:** Main effect differences were found between the three groups in terms of self-efficacy, intrinsic value, and enjoyment of completion. Differences were also noted for physical, psychological and social health-related quality of life. The post hoc analysis determined that the biomedical student cohort scored lower than the psychology and general education groups on measures of enjoyment of competition, and physical, psychological and social health-related quality of life. The medical student cohort scored highest on intrinsic value.

**Conclusion:** Key differences are noted between the three groups with the biomedical student scoring high on intrinsic value suggesting they recognize the value of the course more than non-biomedical students. However, they appear to have more issues with enjoyment of competition, and issues of physical, psychological and social health-related quality of life suggesting the competitive nature of the biomedical year may have a detrimental effect on the wellbeing of the biomedical student group.