

Female internists consistently earn less than men

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(HealthDay)—Female internists earn less than men, across many

demographic and employment indicators, according to a research letter published online Aug. 7 in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

Susan Read, Ph.D., from the American College of Physicians in Philadelphia, and colleagues describe physician compensation by gender among U.S. American College of Physicians (ACP) internists. A cross-sectional survey of ACP non-student members was performed; women comprise 37 percent of ACP membership. The survey was e-mailed to 784 practicing physicians; the response rate was 56.3 percent.

The researchers found that, overall, the median annual salary was \$50,000 higher for men than women (\$250,000 versus \$200,000). There were gender differences in salary across many demographic and employment indicators; in every internal medicine specialty, women earned less than men (ranging from a differential of \$29,000 for [internal medicine](#) specialists to \$45,000 for subspecialists). Physicians who were practice owners had a higher [income](#) differential between men and women than employees (\$72,500 versus \$43,000). A larger income gap between men and women was seen for older physicians; there was no difference by physician-reported race. There was variation in the [income gap](#) based on the employment status of the respondent's spouse, but not by marital status. Regardless of whether the respondent was a parent, the [gender differences](#) in salary were the same.

"Female internists earn less than men regardless of whether they are generalists, hospitalists, or subspecialists," the authors write.

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