Table 2: Attitudes of medical students towards general practice:

	Erlangen	LMU	TU	p-value
	m (sd)	m (sd)	m (sd)	
	n	n	n	
Appreciation of general practice				
 General practice is a valid discipline like internal medicine or paediatrics. 	3,91 (1,20) 212	3,82 (1,25)) 385	4,12 (1,17) 333	0,002
 Doing a complete medical history and physical examination is of high importance to practice good medicine. 	4,93 (0,27) 215	4,85 (0,49) 384	4,90 (0,42) 332	0,036
 Experiences in general practice are valuable to future physicians regardless of their eventual speciality choice. 	3,95 (0,98) 211	3,80 (1,14) 383	3,99 (1,04) 331	0,084
 GPs are particularly capable of providing comprehensive care. 	3,59 (1,07) 214	3,61 (1,06) 383	3,82 (1,09) 332	0.006
5. GPs should have more time per patient.	4,58 (0,74) 210	4,59 (0,67) 380	4,62 (0,68) 326	0,779
Comparison with specialists				
 The work of a hospital specialist is intellectually more stimulating than that of the GP. 	3,15 (1,25) 209	3,24 (1,25) 384	3,08 (1,25) 331	0,236
7. The work of a specialist working in ambulant care is intellectually more stimulating than that of the GP.	2,84 (1,17) 206	2,87 (1,15) 382	2,71 (1,23) 328	0,167
8. A specialist (e.g. cardiologist) should earn more money than a GP.	2,18 (1,25) 208	2,33 (1,31) 378	2,15 (1,29) 326	0,099
9. I would feel somehow frustrated if I could not obtain one of the specialisations other than general practice.	2,64 (1,36) 206	2,66 (1,35) 381	2,52 (1,40) 330	0,253
General practitioners' tasks				
 Treating acute diseases is more interesting than counselling/caring for chronically ill patients. 	3,22 (1,17) 210	3,34 (1,15) 382	3,26 (1,15) 333	0,423
11. Health maintenance (prevention/rehabilitation) is not as interesting to me as curative medicine.	3,06 (1,22) 209	3,18 (1,24) 383	3,11 (1,18) 332	0,422
12. I prefer to spend time dealing with patients medical problems rather than their psychosocial problems.	3,14 (1,30) 211	3,17 (1,32) 383	3,12 (1,39) 329	0,920
13. In terms of working as a doctor, I take most pleasure in talking to patients.	3,61 (0.99) 203	3,56 (1,07) 380	3,63 (1,01) 328	0,756
Broad interest				
14. If I were asked to include the three most fascinating medical specialities I'd include general practice.	2,47 (1,45) 208	2,44 (1,47) 382	2,61 (1,50) 329	0,258
15. The future as specialist is more attractive than that of the GP.	3,66 (1,15) 209	3,84 (1,18) 380	3,67 (1,22) 328	0,049
16. A wide variety of problems encompassing all age groups is interesting to me.	3,92 (1,08) 211	3,79 (1,00) 380	3,97 (1,01) 331	0,027

17. I feel well prepared fort he daily routine as	2,18 (1,03)	2,67 (1,01)	2,18 (0,95)	0,000
a doctor.	191	377	332	0,000
Competence of general practitioners				
 The quality of the medical care provided by GPs is not good 	2,77 (1,06) 206	2,78 (0,99) 368	2,63 (0,94) 323	0,106
 In case of uncertainty, GPs should not hesitate to consult a specialist. 	3,59 (0,84) 207	3,56 (0,96) 379	3,56 (0,95) 326	0,994
20. The GP is not as competent as the internist.	2,36 (1,15) 198	2,31 (1,18) 376	2,10 (1,06) 325	0,018
Vocational training in general practice				
21. Complex vocational training in general practice at many places and including different specialities is a reason for not choosing it as career option.	2,26 (1,25) 188	2,34 (1,24) 356	2,05 (1,12) 321	0,008
22. Low profit of general practice is an important reason for not choosing general practice as career option.	3,45 (1,38) 205	3,75 (1,27) 375	3,46 (1,30) 328	0,003
Teamwork				
23. A GP should not assume long-term responsibility for patients with chronic illnesses alone.	3,67 (0,97) 205	3,30 (1,12) 374	3,38 (1,13) 325	0,001
24. A GP should always consult specialists for managing critically ill patients.	3,16 (1,19) 209	2,87 (1,15(374	2,72 (1,15) 325	0,000
Organisation				
25. Physician's assistants should be integrated more than before in the care of patients.	3,10 (1,06) 197	3,06 (1,14) 363	3,24 (1,13) 311	0,065
26. The provision of services by speciality- oriented physicians should be coordinated and controlled by GP's.	3,48 (1,15) 209	3,43 (1,20) 369	3,29 (1,23) 329	0,153
Science				
27. Epidemiological and preventive medicine research is interesting to me.	3,08 (1,21) 209	2,79 (1,27) 380	3,02 (1,27) 328	0,007
28. General practice is based upon sound scientific principles.	3,07 (1,05) 182	3,29 (0,95) 356	3,42 (1,01) 315	0,001
Time for patients				
29. A doctor should perform as many direct patient-contact services as possible.	3,79 (0,96) 207	3,85 (0,99) 374	3,92 (0,95) 3,18	0,273
30. Patients with emotional disorders cannot be helped without spending a lot of the doctor's time.	4,17 (1,00) 212	4,28 (0,94) 376	4,13 (0,98) 327	0,098
Electronic patient record				
31. The introduction of electronic patient record is problematic.	2,64 (1,24) 204	2,25 (1,18) 366	2,33 (1,28) 320	0,001
Economic efficiency and ethics				
32. Controlling the cost of care is equally important as letting people and doctors have free choice over their healthcare plans.	3,23 (1,21) 206	3,30 (1,23) 364	3,35 (1,26) 324	0,406

33. The German health care system can only work well with GPs as an integral part of the system. 4.34 (0,86) 202 370 321 0,465 Items without significant factor loadings 202 370 321 0,140 34. A GP should enjoy as much prestige as Ges the specialist, e.g. a neurosurgeon. 4,15 (1,13) 4,23 (1,04) 324 0,140 35. Germany requires more specialists than GPs. 2,29 (1,00) 2,14 (0,96) 2,09 (1,02) 303 9,943 36. GPs have a deeper relationship with their patients than specialists. 209 331 331 0,443 37. Working as a GP in Germany is not very attractive. 3.99 (0,96) 4.08 (1,03) 3,22 (1,03) 0,046 38. GPs are among the most respected members of their communities. 2.04 (0,93) 1,97 (0.92) 2,05 (0,96) 0,432 39. Being in general practice provides a physician with an excellent opportunity to make a good living. 3,47 (1,20) 3,86 (0,88) 3,51 (1,23) 3,61 (1,23) 3,61 (1,23) 3,61 (1,23) 3,61 (1,23) 3,61 (1,23) 3,61 (1,23) 3,61 (1,23) 3,61 (1,24) 3,54 (1,23) 3,61 (1,23) 3,61 (1,24) 3,41 (1,01) 3,88 (1,22) 3,76 (1,32) 3,61 (2,2) 3,73 (1,32) 3,76 (1,32)	Health care system				
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					0,007

Scaling of questionnaire: 1 strongly disagree, 2 disagree, 3 undecided, 4 agree, 5 strongly agree