

R L I Kickstart Your Career Workshop

# Academics vs Private Practice: Where Do I Belong?

**Rend Al-Khalili, MD**

Assistant Professor of Radiology

Division of Breast Imaging

MedStar Georgetown University Hospital



# Disclosures

Nothing to disclose.

# Outline:

- Pros and cons of academia and private practice
- Where do I belong?
- A typical day ..
- Take away points

# About Academia

- According to the ACR 2017 workforce survey, **23%** of radiologists are employed in an **academic university**
- Energy is focused on training the next generation and contributing to field development
- *Practice model:* academic medical centers, community expansion

# About Academia

Pros:

- Contribute to research and innovation
- Subspecialize – see more complex cases, develop expertise
- Leadership opportunities
- Teaching/education: med students, residents, fellows, patients
- Mentorship
- Collegiality/collaboration
- Schedule flexibility
- Job stability

# About Academia

Cons:

- Lower compensation ceiling
- Politics
- Pressures of the tripartite mission – academic time can be hard to come by

# About Private Practice

- The U.S. has approximately **34,000 radiologists** according to **ACR 2014 survey** with **72%** working in **private groups**.
- Energy focused on using skills to provide best patient care within the community.
- Practice models: Outpatient Vs. Community Hospital, Solo/small group to larger consolidated practices

# About Private Practice

Pros:

- Variety – Keep your skills viable.
- Flexibility – Part time, schedule switches, more jobs available
- Autonomy in decision making – less/different politics
- Efficiency
- Financially attractive



# About Private Practice

## Cons:

- Lacks Job security
- Variable productivity (less pressure in academics)
- Longer work hours
- Higher volume
- Lacks day to day teaching and research opportunities

**Private Practice**

**Academics**



# Do I Fit in Academics?

- Ambitious
- Love to educate
- Prefer to work with experts
- Read studies at my own pace
- Interest in leadership and mentorship
- Not so great at self education
- Supportive home situation



# Goals in Academics?



# Goals in Academics?

- Prestige
- Affiliated with a medical school
- Publications
- Teaching awards
- Promotion
- Master of a field
- Inspiring leader

# Do I fit in Private Practice?

- Multitasker
- Fast and efficient
- Prefer to be uninterrupted
- Can handle high volume
- Good at practice building and marketing
- Like autonomy
- Self educate





# Goals in Private Practice



# Goals in Private Practice

- Great patient care
- Efficiency and productivity
- Keeping general skills
- Sharing equitable decision making
- Financially comfortable
- Good personal life-style
- Choosing your own path





# Academics

- **Type of work:** Subspecialized, usually one rotation
- **Downtime:** teach or work on a project
- **Conferences:** Lectures, grand rounds, Q&A, faculty meeting
- **Interaction:** colleagues, residents, fellows, students, technologists, etc.
- **Setup:** Shared reading room, discuss, chat and show cases
- **Academic day:** Work on lectures and research
- **Day off:** Do things you enjoy, often catch up on work.
- **Calls:** weekends and nights - usually subspecialized

# Private Practice

- **Type of work :** Multiple different exams and procedures
- **Downtime:** read more studies
- **Conferences:** tumor board? If outpatient- none
- **Interaction:** Mostly technologists and patients
- **Setup:** “Your” reading room, no interruption for the most part!
- **Academic day:** None
- **Day off:** Do things you enjoy!
- **Calls:** depends



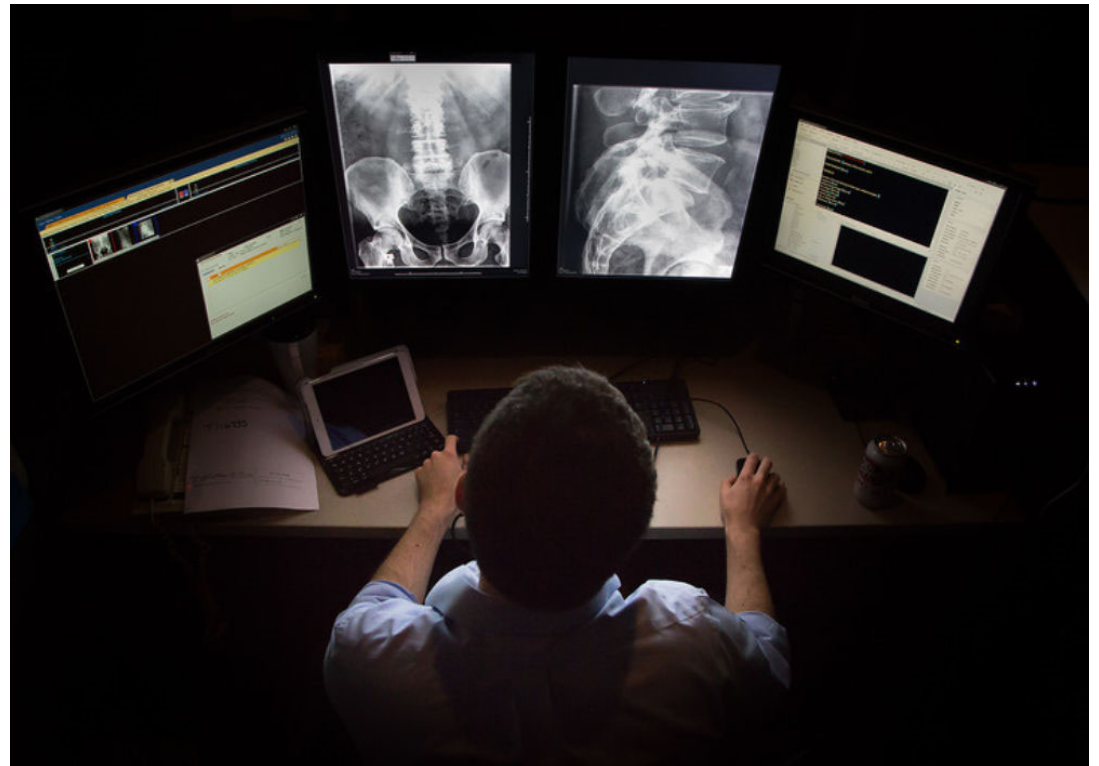
**Private Practice**

**Academics**



## During Residency ..

- Get exposed to private practice and see what's like.
- Get to know YOU:
  - Your speed
  - Interest in teaching med students?
  - Research

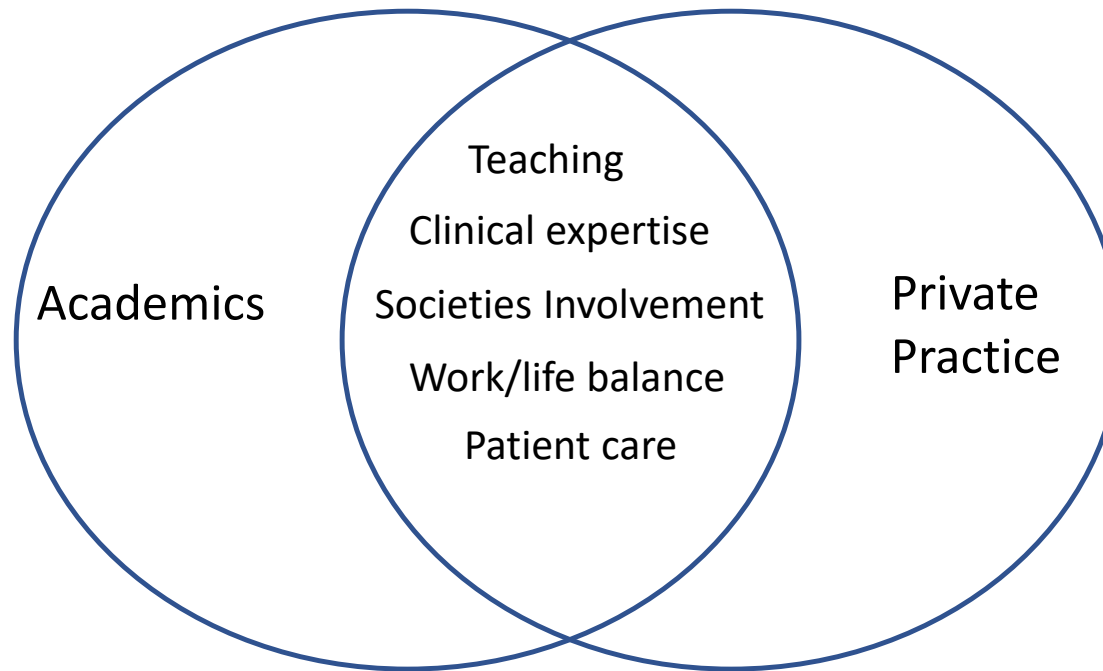


## During Fellowship ..

- You know the type of work you'll do → Can I do this every single day for the rest of my life?
- Get unbiased opinions.
- Start the process early and prioritize:
  - Location?
  - Type of work?
  - Call and work hours?
- Define your **goals**



## Take Home Points:



**JOB SATISFACTION**

# Thank you!

Contact info: [rend.al-Khalili@gunet.georgetown.edu](mailto:rend.al-Khalili@gunet.georgetown.edu)

 @rendalkhalili

