

7 March 2016

## **Oncology Junior Doctors' Contract Imposition Survey: Final Results**

A survey of the UK oncology community was undertaken by the Association of Cancer Physicians (ACP) and the Oncology Registrars' Forum of the Faculty of Clinical Oncology of The Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) between 12 February and 24 February 2016. The survey was designed to canvass opinion from medical and clinical oncologists based in the UK about the effects of the imposition of the junior doctors' contract on future non-surgical cancer care.

The results below should be read in conjunction with the press release dated 18 February 2016 (<https://www.rcr.ac.uk/posts/survey-shows-95-oncologists-think-new-junior-doctors'-contract-will-adversely-affect-cancer>) and letter to the Secretary of State for Health dated 17 February 2016 (<http://www.cancerphysicians.org.uk/>)

### **Respondents:**

The survey was sent out to a total of 1161 clinical oncologists and 725 medical oncologists. **650** separate responses were received.

The overall response rate was **34.5%**.

Location of respondents:

		%
England	596	91.7
N Ireland	20	3.1
Scotland	21	3.2
Wales	13	2.0

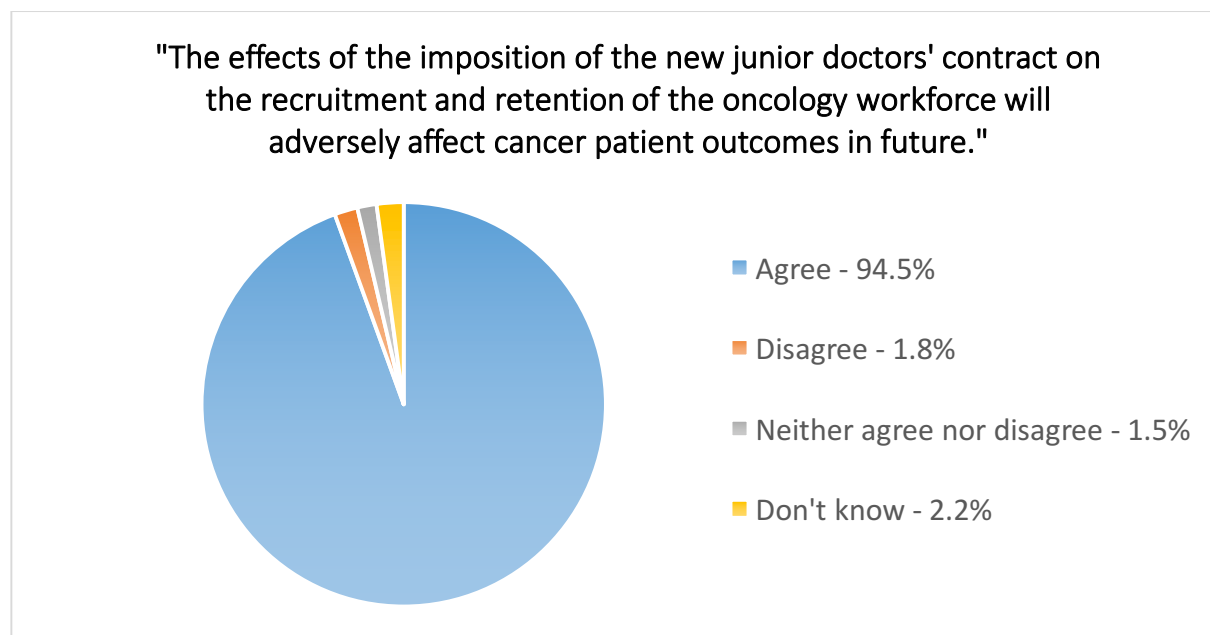
Categories of respondents:

		%
Trainees	323	49.7
Consultants	323	49.7
No information	4	0.6

## Responses to Survey Questions:

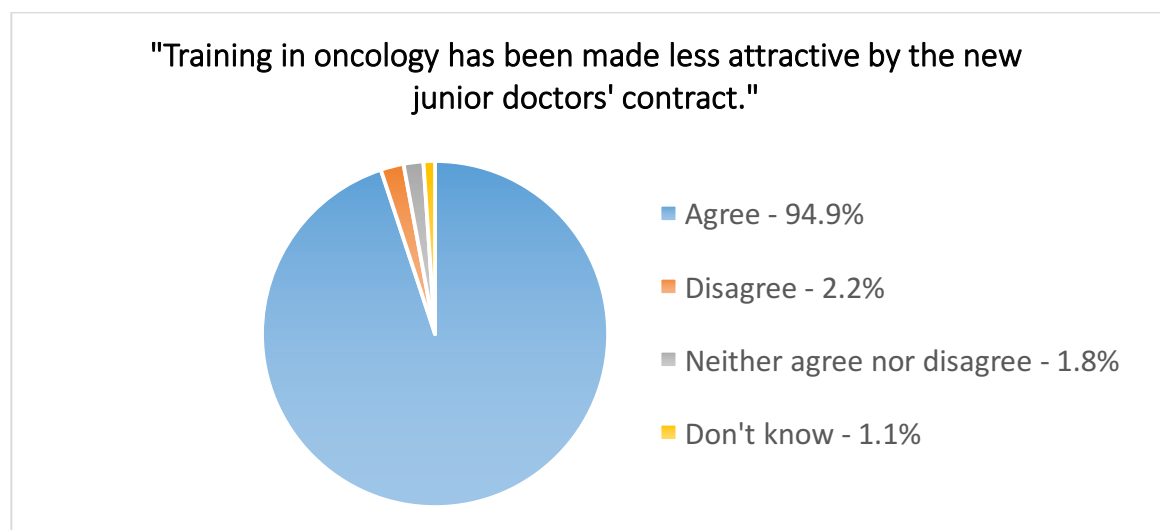
Q1. The effects of the imposition of the new junior doctors' contract on the recruitment and retention of the oncology workforce will adversely affect cancer patient outcomes in future.

		%
Agree	614	94.5
Disagree	12	1.8
Neither agree nor disagree	10	1.5
Don't know	14	2.2



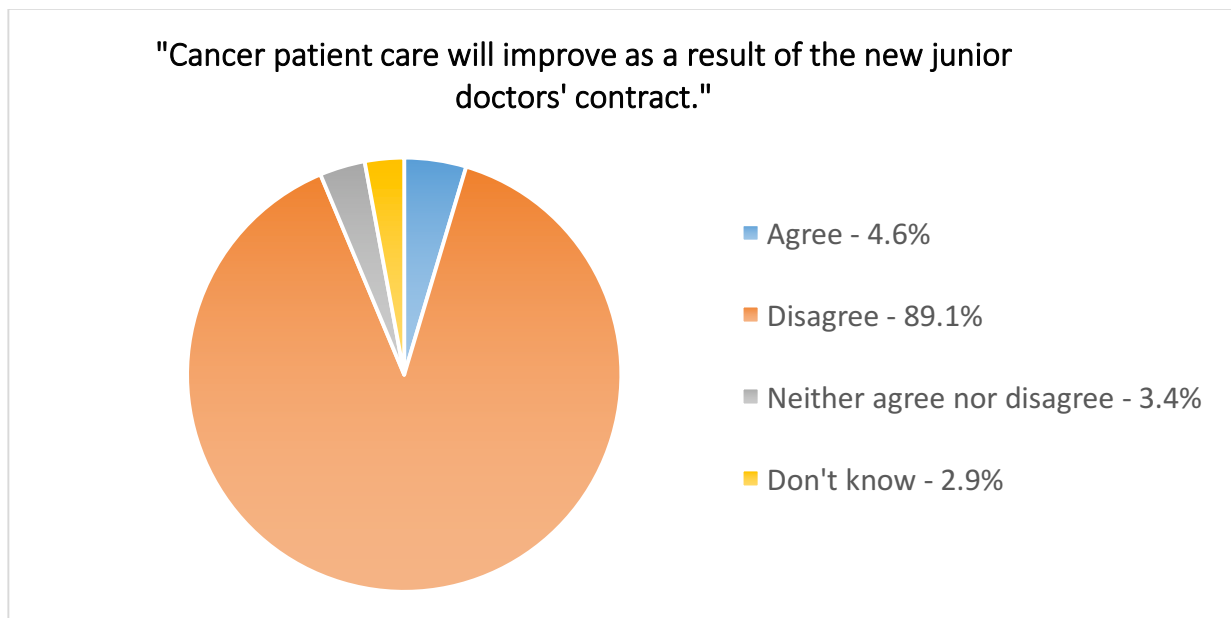
Q2. Training in oncology has been made less attractive by the new junior doctors' contract.

		%
Agree	617	94.9
Disagree	14	2.2
Neither agree nor disagree	12	1.8
Don't know	7	1.1



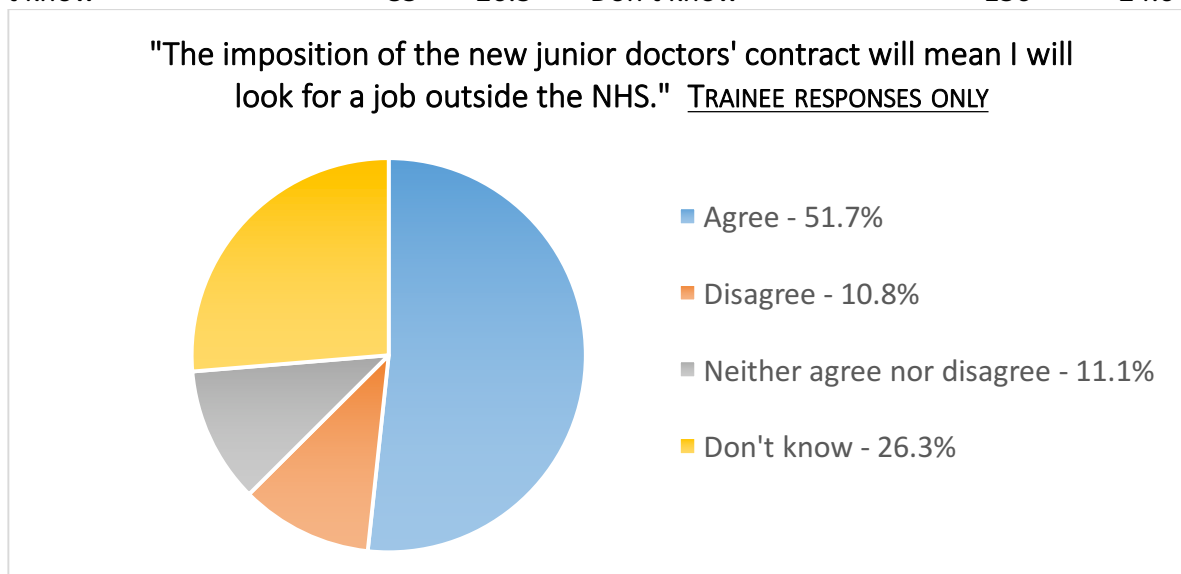
Q3. Cancer patient care will improve as a result of the new junior doctors' contract.

		%
Agree	30	4.6
Disagree	579	89.1
Neither agree nor disagree	22	3.4
Don't know	19	2.9



Q4. The imposition of the new junior doctors' contract will mean I will look for a job outside the NHS.

<b>Trainees only</b>			<b>Overall</b>		
		%			%
Agree	167	51.7	Agree	235	36.2
Disagree	35	10.8	Disagree	131	20.2
Neither agree nor disagree	36	11.1	Neither agree nor disagree	128	19.7
Don't know	85	26.3	Don't know	156	24.0



Q5. Do you support the principles of the letter (see <http://www.cancerphysicians.org.uk/>) to Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt?

		%
Yes - named	497	76.5
Yes- no name provided	53	8.2
No	82	12.6
No response	18	2.8

### **Conclusion:**

The vast majority of respondents to this survey are of the opinion that the imposition of the new junior doctors' contract will have negative effects on cancer patient care and cancer outcomes in future. The adverse effects of contract imposition on recruitment and retention of the oncology workforce are illustrated by over half of oncology trainees reporting that they will look for a job outside the NHS.

The oncology community calls on the Government in the strongest terms to heed the warnings given by the results of this survey. Government statements have claimed that the new junior doctors' contract will improve patient care. It is our clear view that the effects on cancer care will be the opposite.

### **Notes:**

1. [The Association of Cancer Physicians](#) (ACP) is recognised by the Royal College of Physicians and the Department of Health as the specialty association for medical oncologists. The executive committee is made up of democratically elected clinicians representing the views and concerns of the membership. Membership of the ACP gives medical oncologists an independent voice in the affairs of the Royal College of Physicians, the Joint Collegiate Council for Oncology (JCCO) and the Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC), who supervise training and accreditation.
2. [The Royal College of Radiologists](#) (RCR) has almost 10,000 Fellows and members worldwide, representing the specialties of clinical oncology and clinical radiology. The College sets and maintains the standards for entry to and practise in the specialties in addition to leading and supporting practitioners throughout their careers.  
The Oncology Registrars' Forum (ORF) of the RCR consists of an elected trainee from every region in the UK and includes a national representative of less than full-time trainees. Members are elected by their trainee colleagues to represent their interests within the College. The ORF sends representatives to many of the College's boards and committees, and also acts as a source of support, resources and guidance for trainees, supporting the College's quality assurance of training in the process. Some members also sit on external committees such as the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges' Trainee Doctors' Group and the BMA's Junior Doctors' Committee.