

## SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

**Table S1:** Reliability analysis of the items of the subject attitude questionnaire with the first two items removed (N=428)

	Mean of the scale if the element is removed	Variance of the scale if the element is removed	Corrected item-total correlation	Squared multiple correlation	Cronbach's alpha if the element is removed
<b>Actm3</b>	65,26	30,658	0,308	0,178	0,805
<b>Actm4</b>	66,20	27,381	0,411	0,356	0,803
<b>Actm5</b>	64,95	29,303	0,501	0,391	0,793
<b>Actm6</b>	65,16	26,358	0,540	0,426	0,789
<b>Actm21</b>	64,92	28,451	0,568	0,389	0,788
<b>Actm22</b>	65,11	29,389	0,374	0,339	0,801
<b>Actm23</b>	65,34	29,531	0,391	0,348	0,800
<b>Actm24</b>	64,79	29,863	0,465	0,301	0,796
<b>Actm25</b>	64,63	30,138	0,489	0,414	0,796
<b>Actm26</b>	64,67	30,026	0,483	0,359	0,796
<b>Actm27</b>	64,56	30,502	0,495	0,405	0,797
<b>Actm28</b>	64,68	31,107	0,306	0,194	0,805
<b>Actm29</b>	65,20	29,363	0,368	0,232	0,802
<b>Actm210</b>	64,84	29,973	0,375	0,207	0,801
<b>Actm211</b>	64,73	30,026	0,432	0,261	0,798
<b>Actm212</b>	65,22	29,794	0,294	0,161	0,808

*1: the first two items have been removed and all corrected item-total correlation values are above the 0.2 cut-off point.*

**Table S2:** Items and factorial saturations of the Occupational Medicine subject attitude questionnaire. Highlighted values are those that saturate the factor. rotation method: VARIMAX (N=428).

	FACTOR WEIGHTS			
	Factor 1	Factor 2	Factor 3	Factor 4
<b>Actm3</b>	0,114	<b>0,585</b>	0,189	-0,198
<b>Actm4</b>	-0,108	<b>0,708</b>	0,014	0,404

<b>Actm5</b>	0,278	<b>0,755</b>	-0,001	0,007
<b>Actm6</b>	0,181	<b>0,635</b>	-0,020	0,436
<b>Actm21</b>	0,354	<b>0,578</b>	0,267	0,064
<b>Actm22</b>	0,208	0,107	<b>0,772</b>	0,002
<b>Actm23</b>	0,083	0,080	<b>0,836</b>	0,172
<b>Actm24</b>	<b>0,458</b>	0,149	0,328	0,206
<b>Actm25</b>	<b>0,728</b>	0,182	0,218	-0,053
<b>Actm26</b>	<b>0,662</b>	0,223	0,073	0,091
<b>Actm27</b>	<b>0,747</b>	0,109	0,150	0,070
<b>Actm28</b>	<b>0,572</b>	-0,053	-0,115	0,288
<b>Actm29</b>	0,074	0,147	0,051	<b>0,745</b>
<b>Actm210</b>	<b>0,410</b>	0,158	0,246	0,103
<b>Actm211</b>	0,420	0,115	-0,024	<b>0,507</b>
<b>Actm212</b>	0,133	-0,064	0,283	<b>0,572</b>

**Table S3.** Results of the Attitude questionnaire **before (B) and after (A)** studying Occupational Medicine in the University of Castilla la Mancha in the academic year 2017-2018 (N=98)

	Percentage (%)																	
	Strongly disagree (1)		Disagree (2)		Neutral (3)		Agree (4)		Strongly agree (5)		Ns/Nc		Median		Mean		SD	
	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A
1. The job of the occupational physician is challenging (Actm1)	35,7	20,0	35,7	37,8	23,5	28,9	3,1	8,9	2,0	4,4	0,0	0,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,4	0,95	1,05
2. I am very much attracted to the preventive aspects of occupational health (Actm2)	15,3	8,9	22,4	11,1	31,6	28,9	27,6	44,4	2,0	6,7	1,0	0,0	3,0	4,0	2,8	3,3	1,08	1,05
3. Occupational disability is an interesting topic to study (Actm3)	9,2	5,6	15,3	5,6	37,8	7,8	34,7	60,0	2,0	20,0	1,0	1,1	3,0	4,0	3,1	3,8	0,98	1,00
4. One of my options is to become an occupational physician (Actm4)	11,2	10,0	33,7	17,8	35,7	26,7	16,3	36,7	1,0	8,9	2,0	0,0	3,0	3,0	2,6	3,2	0,93	1,13

<b>5. I find it interesting to study occupational diseases (Actm5)</b>	1,0	0,0	4,1	3,3	15,3	2,2	63,3	61,1	15,3	33,3	1,0	0,0	4,0	4,0	3,9	4,2	0,75	0,66
<b>6. Advising companies about healthy work is attractive to me (Actm6)</b>	0,0	0,0	0,0	1,1	6,1	1,1	73,5	43,3	20,4	54,4	0,0	0,0	4,0	5,0	4,1	4,5	0,50	0,59
<b>Occupational medicine as an interesting medical specialty (11 statements)</b>																		
<b>1. From the clinical point of view, occupational diseases are not very interesting (reversed coding) (Actm21)</b>	0,0	0,0	2,0	2,2	16,3	5,6	62,2	52,2	19,4	40,0	0,0	0,0	4,0	4,0	4,0	4,3	0,67	0,68
<b>2. There is still a lot to be discovered about occupational diseases (Actm22)</b>	0,0	0,0	5,1	3,3	34,7	10,0	46,9	54,4	13,3	32,2	0,0	0,0	4,0	4,0	3,7	4,2	0,77	0,73
<b>3. There is still a lot to be discovered about return to work after illness (Actm23)</b>	0,0	0,0	5,1	4,4	29,6	20,0	51,0	60,0	13,3	15,6	1,0	0,0	4,0	4,0	3,7	3,9	0,76	0,72
<b>4. Return to work after illness forms an important part of rehabilitation (Actm24)</b>	0,0	1,1	0,0	0,0	3,1	3,3	66,3	58,9	29,6	36,7	1,0	0,0	4,0	4,0	4,3	4,3	0,51	0,64
<b>5. It is important to diagnose an illness as an occupational disease (Actm25)</b>	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	6,1	3,3	62,2	51,1	31,6	45,6	0,0	0,0	4,0	4,0	4,3	4,4	0,56	0,56
<b>6. As an occupational physician you need trust between you and your patient (Actm26)</b>	2,0	0,0	1,0	0,0	6,1	3,3	50,0	32,2	40,8	64,4	0,0	0,0	4,0	5,0	4,3	4,6	0,79	0,55
<b>7. The kind of work a patient is doing forms an important part of the medical history (Actm27)</b>	1,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	3,1	2,2	41,8	33,3	54,1	64,4	0,0	0,0	5,0	5,0	4,5	4,6	0,66	0,53
<b>8. As a physician, you will always know what kind of job your patient holds (Actm28)</b>	0,0	0,0	1,0	0,0	6,1	4,4	52,0	47,8	37,8	47,8	3,1	0,0	4,0	4,0	4,3	4,4	0,64	0,58
<b>9. If you have a certain illness, it is important to take this into consideration already when choosing a career (Actm29)</b>	0,0	0,0	2,0	1,1	9,2	6,7	58,2	63,3	27,6	28,9	3,1	0,0	4,0	4,0	4,1	4,2	0,67	0,60
<b>10. Every physician should report</b>	1,0	0,0	1,0	0,0	13,3	7,8	61,2	46,7	20,4	45,6	3,1	0,0	4,0	4,0	4,0	4,4	0,70	0,63

occupational diseases (Actm210)																		
11. With every patient, the doctor looks at the complaints but also at its consequences for functioning in daily life and at work (Actm211)	0,0	0,0	1,0	4,4	3,1	4,4	52,0	38,9	40,8	56,7	3,1	0,0	4,0	5,0	4,4	4,5	0,60	0,58
<b>Role and position of the occupational physician (one statement)</b>																		
12. It is a problem that, as an occupational physician, one is not independent from the employer (Actm212)	1,0	2,2	1,0	5,3	19,4	12,2	50,0	46,7	25,5	36,2	3,1	0,0	4,0	4,0	4,0	4,1	0,78	0,92

**Table S4.** Results of the Attitude questionnaire **before and after** studying Occupational Medicine in the University of Castilla la Mancha in the academic year 2017-2018 (N=98)

Items	Before			After			<i>U</i> <i>Mann-Whitney</i>
	Median	Mean	SD	Median	Mean	SD	
<b>A career in occupational medicine (six statements)</b>							
1. The job of the occupational physician is challenging (Actm1)	2,0	2,00	0,95	2,0	2,40	1,05	<b>0,007</b>
2. I am very much attracted to the preventive aspects of occupational health (Actm2)	3,0	2,78	1,08	4,0	3,29	1,05	<b>0,001</b>
3. Occupational disability is an interesting topic to study (Actm3)	3,0	3,05	0,98	4,0	3,84	1,00	<b>0,000</b>
4. One of my options is to become an occupational physician (Actm4)	3,0	2,61	0,93	3,0	3,17	1,13	<b>0,000</b>
5. I find it interesting to study occupational diseases (Actm5)	4,0	3,89	0,75	4,0	4,24	0,66	<b>0,000</b>
6. Advising companies about healthy work is attractive to me (Actm6)	4,0	4,14	0,50	5,0	4,51	0,59	<b>0,000</b>
<b>Occupational medicine as an interesting medical specialty (11 statements)</b>							
1. From the clinical point of view, occupational diseases are not very interesting (reversed coding) (Actm21)	4,0	3,99	0,67	4,0	4,30	0,68	<b>0,001</b>
2. There is still a lot to be discovered about occupational diseases (Actm22)	4,0	3,68	0,77	4,0	4,16	0,73	<b>0,000</b>
3. There is still a lot to be discovered about return to work after illness (Actm23)	4,0	3,73	0,76	4,0	3,87	0,72	0,177

<b>4. Return to work after illness forms an important part of rehabilitation (Actm24)</b>	4,0	4,27	0,51	4,0	4,30	0,64	0,435
<b>5. It is important to diagnose an illness as an occupational disease (Actm25)</b>	4,0	4,26	0,56	4,0	4,42	0,56	<b>0,042</b>
<b>6. As an occupational physician you need trust between you and your patient (Actm26)</b>	4,0	4,27	0,79	5,0	4,61	0,55	<b>0,001</b>
<b>7. The kind of work a patient is doing forms an important part of the medical history (Actm27)</b>	5,0	4,48	0,66	5,0	4,62	0,53	0,137
<b>8. As a physician, you will always know what kind of job your patient holds (Actm28)</b>	4,0	4,31	0,64	4,0	4,43	0,58	0,185
<b>9. If you have a certain illness, it is important to take this into consideration already when choosing a career (Actm29)</b>	4,0	4,15	0,67	4,0	4,20	0,60	0,666
<b>10. Every physician should report occupational diseases (Actm210)</b>	4,0	4,02	0,70	4,0	4,38	0,63	<b>0,000</b>
<b>11. With every patient, the doctor looks at the complaints but also at its consequences for functioning in daily life and at work (Actm211)</b>	4,0	4,37	0,60	5,0	4,52	0,58	0,065
<b>Role and position of the occupational physician (one statement)</b>							
<b>12. It is a problem that, as an occupational physician, one is not independent from the employer (Actm212)</b>	4,0	4,01	0,78	4,0	4,07	0,92	0,330

**Table S5.** Differences in attitudes towards Occupational Medicine between Zaragoza and Castilla la Mancha **before** taking the subject

Items	Zaragoza (N=111)			Castilla la Mancha (N=98)			U Mann-Whitney (p-value)
	Median	Mean	SD	Median	Mean	SD	
<b>Actm 1</b>	3,0	2,64	0,99	2,0	2,00	0,95	<b>0,000</b>
<b>Actm 2</b>	4,0	3,34	0,93	3,0	2,78	1,08	<b>0,002</b>
<b>Actm 3</b>	4,0	3,75	0,70	3,0	3,05	0,98	<b>0,000</b>
<b>Actm4</b>	4,0	3,29	0,96	3,0	2,61	0,93	<b>0,000</b>
<b>Actm5</b>	4,0	4,34	0,48	4,0	3,89	0,75	<b>0,000</b>
<b>Actm6</b>	5,0	4,52	0,75	4,0	4,14	0,50	<b>0,000</b>
<b>Actm21</b>	4,0	4,29	0,79	4,0	3,99	0,67	<b>0,003</b>
<b>Actm22</b>	4,0	3,72	0,72	4,0	3,68	0,77	0,841
<b>Actm23</b>	4,0	3,76	0,82	4,0	3,73	0,76	0,696
<b>Actm24</b>	4,0	4,38	0,56	4,0	4,27	0,51	0,181
<b>Actm25</b>	5,0	4,69	0,47	4,0	4,26	0,56	<b>0,000</b>
<b>Actm26</b>	5,0	4,60	0,59	4,0	4,27	0,79	<b>0,003</b>

<b>Actm27</b>	5,0	4,64	0,58		5,0	4,48	0,66	0,094
<b>Actm28</b>	5,0	4,55	0,54		4,0	4,31	0,64	<b>0,019</b>
<b>Actm29</b>	4,0	4,16	0,83		4,0	4,15	0,67	0,587
<b>Actm210</b>	4,0	4,40	0,62		4,0	4,02	0,70	<b>0,001</b>
<b>Actm211</b>	5,0	4,55	0,54		4,0	4,37	0,60	0,066
<b>Actm212</b>	4,0	4,09	0,84		4,0	4,01	0,78	0,432

**Table S6.** Differences in attitudes towards Occupational Medicine between Zaragoza and Castilla la Mancha **after** taking the subject

<i>Items</i>	Attitudes			<i>U Mann-Whitney (p-value)</i>					
	Zaragoza (N=111)	Median	Mean	SD	Castilla la Mancha (N=98)	Median	Mean	SD	
<b>Actm 1</b>	3,0	2,80	1,02		2,0	2,40	1,05		<b>0,002</b>
<b>Actm 2</b>	4,0	3,56	0,97		4,0	3,29	1,05		<b>0,045</b>
<b>Actm 3</b>	4,0	4,09	0,64		4,0	3,84	1,00		0,150
<b>Actm4</b>	4,0	3,37	1,01		3,0	3,17	1,13		0,212
<b>Actm5</b>	5,0	4,54	0,59		4,0	4,24	0,66		<b>0,000</b>
<b>Actm6</b>	5,0	4,70	0,64		5,0	4,51	0,59		<b>0,001</b>
<b>Actm21</b>	5,0	4,59	0,70		4,0	4,30	0,68		<b>0,000</b>
<b>Actm22</b>	4,0	4,14	0,87		4,0	4,16	0,73		0,732
<b>Actm23</b>	4,0	4,03	0,79		4,0	3,87	0,72		0,088
<b>Actm24</b>	5,0	4,64	0,60		4,0	4,30	0,64		<b>0,000</b>
<b>Actm25</b>	5,0	4,74	0,60		4,0	4,42	0,56		<b>0,000</b>
<b>Actm26</b>	5,0	4,76	0,59		5,0	4,61	0,55		<b>0,009</b>
<b>Actm27</b>	5,0	4,79	0,50		5,0	4,62	0,53		<b>0,003</b>
<b>Actm28</b>	5,0	4,66	0,52		4,0	4,43	0,58		<b>0,002</b>
<b>Actm29</b>	4,0	4,30	0,65		4,0	4,20	0,60		0,152
<b>Actm210</b>	5,0	4,52	0,70		4,0	4,38	0,63		<b>0,027</b>
<b>Actm211</b>	5,0	4,74	0,48		5,0	4,52	0,58		<b>0,002</b>
<b>Actm212</b>	4,0	4,12	0,85		4,0	4,07	0,92		0,765