

## INVESTIGATION OF PSYCHOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF GREEK DOCTORS SPECIALIZING IN GENERAL-FAMILY MEDICINE AND IN INTERNAL MEDICINE

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**Introduction:** The relatively recent propagation of the specialty of Family Medicine in Greece has created a new reality in the Greek society. This resulted in the "co-inhabitation" of the Family Medicine specialists and the Internal Medicine specialists in various Primary Care units of the country.

**Objectives:** To investigate the internal and external shame of the residents in Family Medicine and Internal Medicine and the comparison of both groups.

**Aims:** To demonstrate the distinct role that Family doctors must have in Primary Care.

**Methods:** 102 Greek resident doctors, 52 specializing in Family Medicine and 50 specializing in Internal Medicine participated in the study. The scientific tools used were: a) the Other As Shamer Scale, b) the Experience of Shame Scale, c) the Hostility and Direction of Hostility Questionnaire, d) The Symptom Checklist-90-R, e) Eysenck Personality Questionnaire.

**Results:** Comparing the two groups using the T-Test, it was observed that the residents of Family Medicine showed a statistically significant higher mean value compared to the residents Internal Medicine in the subscales of: characterological shame, behavioral shame, bodily shame, total shame, emptiness, criticism of others, self-criticism, guilt, intropunitiveness, total hostility, neuroticism and an statistically lower mean value compared to the residents of Internal Medicine in the subscales of: mistakes, Anxiety, Phobic Anxiety and Psychotism.

**Conclusion:** The results of the study are supporting the common belief that the specialty of Family Medicine has not yet obtained a specific and distinct role and furthermore has not yet gained the necessary recognition by the Greek society.