

Practice Buzz: Working Neurologist-Parents' Challenges in the COVID-19 Era

[Practice Buzz](#) is a new, innovative, spin-off project of [Practice Current](#). Our worldwide surveys will focus on targeted questions for healthcare providers in neurology ranging from hot topics in clinical practice to contemporary issues in work/life balance and blind spots in topics of inclusion, equity, and diversity.

Survey results will be available on an interactive world map along with several comments from international panelists, with emphasis on inclusion and diversity of backgrounds and opinions.

We are conducting this brief survey to learn more about lock down and social distancing challenges specifically affecting neurologist-parents. This survey will help medical societies and institutions to recognize 'hidden' COVID-19 impacts on their faculty-members' access to academic promotion.

Seventy-eight percent of families in the US have at least one working parent (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics 2019)^[1] and one-third of the European population has childcare responsibilities (Eurostat 2018).^[2] With COVID-19 causing lockdown in some countries and social distancing in others, parents often juggle childcare, homeschooling, and telework. As families struggle to find an equilibrium, productivity scales continue ticking. Progressive reopening is starting in many places with few childcare solutions and modest employer assistance. Some working moms previously kept their caregiver role hidden from their workplaces to avoid being penalized for 'being a caregiver';^[3] many now find that impossible with a child screaming behind the home-office door or coming to sit on their lap during virtual meetings. During this pandemic, neurologist-parents continue to be caring physicians, devoted scientists, and loving caregivers. No studies to date have investigated neurologist-parents' COVID-19-created challenges.

[1] <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/famee.nr0.htm>

[2] Reconciliation of work and family life-statistics. Eurostat 2018. Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Reconciliation_of_work_and_family_life_-_statistics

[3] Nassim Zecavati, Temitayo Oyegbile, Caryn Peeples, Cesar Santos. Gender Pay Gap Exists for Female Physicians in Neurology. Neurology Journal, 2016 Apr 5; 86 (16 Supplement): P1.343

LOGIC Show/hide trigger exists.

1. How many children are in your household? *

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 or more

LOGIC Hidden unless: #1 Question "How many children are in your household?" is one of the following answers ("1","2","3","4","5 or more")

2. How many of those children are preschool age (newborn to 4 years) during the 2019-2020 school year? Include those who turned 5 years old on or after October 1, 2019. *

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 or more

LOGIC Hidden unless: #1 Question "How many children are in your household?" is one of the following answers ("1","2","3","4","5 or more")

3. How many of those children are school age (K-12) during the 2019-2020 school year? *

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 or more

4. Were the changes in your childcare support (if any) primarily the result of COVID-19 lock down or social distancing measures? *

- Yes
- No

5. What was your childcare support prior to COVID-19? *

- Daycare
- Family member (stay-at-home parent, grandparent, other family)
- Nanny / Child minder / Babysitter
- Mix of daycare or nanny and family member
- Virtual childcare (Nanny or family using Face Time, Skype, Whatsapp, Facebook, etc.)
- Other - Write In
- None

6. What is your childcare support during COVID-19? *

- Daycare
- Family member (stay-at-home parent, grandparent, other family)
- Nanny / Child minder / Babysitter
- Mix of daycare or nanny and family member
- Virtual childcare (Nanny or family using FaceTime, Skype, Whatsapp, Facebook, etc.)
- Other - Write In
- None

7. Are you the main wage earner in your household? *

- Yes
- No

LOGIC Show/hide trigger exists.

8. Has your employer or larger professional community provided emergency or subsidized childcare in response to COVID-19 (e.g., if you are working as an essential worker)? *

- Yes
- No

LOGIC Hidden unless: #8 Question "Has your employer or larger professional community provided emergency or subsidized childcare in response to COVID-19 (e.g., if you are working as an essential worker)?" is one of the following answers ("Yes")

9. Please select the option that applies to you: *

- Employer provided emergency care for more than 30 days
- Employer provided emergency care for 30 days or less

10. If you were furloughed or lost your job as a result of COVID-19, do you feel that your status as a parent influenced that furlough or job loss decision? *

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

VALIDATION Min. answers = 1 (if answered) Max. answers = 3 (if answered)

11. What do you feel are/were the top three domains affected by COVID-19 lockdown/social distancing? **Check three.** *

- Increased work hours
- Lack of time for family
- Lack of time for work
- Lack of time for research/writing/academic work
- Increased pressure from productivity expectations
- Loss of employment safety
- Other - Write In (Required)

*

VALIDATION Min. answers = 1 (if answered) Max. answers = 3 (if answered)

12. What are the top three professional domains that are/were affected by COVID-19 lockdown/social distancing? **Check three.** *

- Loss of employment
- Decrease in work salary or benefits (i.e., change in relative value units RVU)
- Decrease in academic productivity
- Decrease in non-industry research
- Decrease in industry research
- Other - Write In (Required)

*

13. What option best describes your primary work environment in general (pre-COVID-19)?

*

- Academic clinical
- Academic clinical and research
- Academic clinical and educator
- Private practice
- Industry
- Locum tenens
- Non-clinical career in medicine
- Other - Write In (Required)

*

14. What option best describes your workflow during the most restrictive two months of COVID-19 lock down/social distancing in your community? (Select more than one answer if applicable) *

- 100% telemedicine patient contact and/or non-patient work
- Less than 50% in-person patient contact (clinic or inpatient)
- More than 50% in-person patient contact (clinic or inpatient)
- Less than 50% lab work
- More than 50% lab work

16. To help us understand impact of COVID-19 on personal well being, please respond to the following statement:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not applicable
Dependent (child/elderly) care has increased	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Quality of time with family has increased	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increased stress, anxiety, or depression with work and life balance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

17. How do you identify your gender? *

- Woman
- Man
- Transwoman
- Transman
- Non-binary
- Prefer to self-describe:
- Prefer not to say

18. What is your marital status/living situation? *

- Married
- Single
- Divorced
- Widowed
- Living with partner
- In a relationship but living independently
- Prefer to self-describe:
- Prefer not to answer

19. What is your race/ethnicity? *

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Middle Eastern or North African
- Black or African American
- East Asian
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- South Asian
- White
- Hispanic or Latinx
- Prefer to self-describe:
- Prefer not to answer

20. What is your work status *

- Full time (1 FTE)
- Part-time (Please share fraction of FTE equivalent)

- Unemployed/Furloughed

Demographic Information

21. What patient population do you treat? *

- Adults (18 years and older)
- Children (0 to 18 years)
- Both (adults and children)

22. How many years have you been in practice? *

- In Training
- Less than 10 years
- 10 or more years

23. What is your primary work setting? *

- Hospital-based (including free-standing, academic, and government)
- Outpatient-based (including neurology clinic, multi-specialty clinic, and private practice)

24. What is your current level of training? *

- Resident/Fellow
- Attending/Consultant/Faculty Board-certified Physician
- Nurse Practitioner (NP)
- Physician Assistant (PA)

Demographic Information

LOGIC Show/hide trigger exists.

25. Do you currently practice in the United States? *

- Yes
- No

LOGIC Hidden unless: #25 Question "Do you currently practice in the United States?" is one of the following answers ("No")

26. In what country is your practice located? *

- Afghanistan
- Åland Islands
- Albania
- Algeria
- American Samoa
- Andorra
- Angola
- Anguilla
- Antarctica
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Argentina
- Armenia
- Aruba
- Australia
- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Bahamas
- Bahrain

Danmark
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belarus
Belgium
Belize
Benin
Bermuda
Bhutan
Bolivia
Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Botswana
Bouvet Island
Brazil
British Indian Ocean Territory
Brunei Darussalam
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cambodia
Cameroon
Canada
Cape Verde
Cayman Islands
Central African Republic
Chad
Chile
China
Christmas Island
Cocos (Keeling) Islands
Colombia
Comoros
Congo
Congo, the Democratic Republic of the
Cook Islands
Costa Rica
Cote d'Ivoire
Croatia
Cuba
Curaçao
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Djibouti
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Estonia
Ethiopia

Europe
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)
Faroe Islands
Fiji
Finland
France
French Guiana
French Polynesia
French Southern Territories (the)
Gabon
Gambia
Georgia
Germany
Ghana
Gibraltar
Greece
Greenland
Grenada
Guadeloupe
Guam
Guatemala
Guernsey
Guinea
Guinea-bissau
Guyana
Haiti
Heard Islands and McDonald Islands
Holy See
Honduras
Hong Kong
Hungary
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Iran, Islamic Republic of
Iraq
Ireland
Isle of Man
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Jersey
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Kiribati
Korea, Democratic People's Republic of
Korea, Republic of
Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Latvia
Lebanon
Lesotho

Liberia
Libya
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Macao
Macedonia (The Former Yugoslav Republic of)
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia
Maldives
Mali
Malta
Marshall Islands
Martinique
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mayotte
Mexico
Micronesia, Federated States of
Moldova
Monaco
Mongolia
Montenegro
Montserrat
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar
Namibia
Nauru
Nepal
Netherlands
New Caledonia
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria
Niue
Norfolk Island
Northern Mariana Islands
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Palau
Palestine, State of
Panama
Papua New Guinea
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Pitcairn
Poland
Portugal

Puerto Rico
Qatar
Réunion
Romania
Russian Federation
Rwanda
Saint Barthélemy
Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Martin (French part)
Saint Pierre and Miquelon
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Samoa
San Marino
Sao Tome and Principe
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Serbia
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Sint Maarten (Dutch part)
Slovakia
Slovenia
Solomon Islands
Somalia
South Africa
South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands
South Sudan
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Surinam
Svalbard and Jan Mayen
Swaziland
Sweden
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Taiwan
Tajikistan
Tanzania, United Republic of
Thailand
Timor Leste
Togo
Tokelau
Tonga
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Turkmenistan
Turks and Caicos Islands
Tuvalu

Uganda
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
United States
United States Minor Outlying Islands
Uruguay
Uzbekistan
Vanuatu
Venezuela
Viet Nam
Virgin Islands, British
Virgin Islands, U.S.
Wallis and Futana
Western Sahara
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

LOGIC Hidden unless: #25 Question "Do you currently practice in the United States?" is one of the following answers ("Yes")

27. In what state is your practice located? *

Alabama
Alaska
Arizona
Arkansas
California
Colorado
Connecticut
Delaware
District of Columbia
Florida
Georgia
Hawaii
Idaho
Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Kansas
Kentucky
Louisiana
Maine
Maryland
Massachusetts
Michigan
Minnesota
Mississippi
Missouri
Montana
Nebraska
Nevada
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New Mexico
New York
North Carolina
North Dakota
Ohio
Oklahoma
Oregon
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
South Carolina
South Dakota
Tennessee
Texas
Utah
Vermont
Virginia
Washington
West Virginia
Wisconsin
Wyoming

LOGIC Show/hide trigger exists.

28. I agree to be contacted again:

- Yes
- No

LOGIC Hidden unless: #28 Question "I agree to be contacted again:" is one of the following answers ("Yes")

29. I agree to be contacted again:

First Name

Last Name

City

State

Country

Email Address

Action: URL Redirect

URL Redirect

Thank you for your participation! Please go to our [Practice Current Home Page](#) for details!