Reply to Walsh

Nancy Oriol
Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts

TO THE EDITOR: We appreciate Dr. Walsh’s suggestions and words of caution. We too think it is good news that participants are still interested in science-related careers. The purpose of our descriptive data is to demonstrate the plausibility of the concept of inspiring careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics as well as healthcare fields through a simulation-based MEDscience program as well as the feasibility of successful implementation (1). Our hope is that others will find this to be a useful building block in creating programs for high school students.

In response to the concern that this program is an “add on” to an already packed curriculum, please note our program is fully integrated into the existing high school science curriculum and is part of the student’s school day. Our program is a collaboration between a classroom teacher and a clinical educator and is tailored to meet the specific needs of the class, as noted in a previous paper (2). MEDscience is currently offered in five schools, where it has been fully embedded in courses such as advanced placement biology, nursing, health, and anatomy and physiology. An important part of this program is that it is built on creative community partnerships among K–12 schools, medical schools, and affiliated institutions. These partnerships add vibrancy and ameliorate costs.

DISCLOSURES
No conflicts of interest, financial or otherwise, are declared by the author(s).

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS
Author contributions: N.E.O. drafted manuscript; N.E.O. edited and revised manuscript; N.E.O. approved final version of manuscript.

REFERENCES