Introduction:
The attractiveness of the medical profession in our days seems to be decreasing. An erosion of medical professionalism as well as the changing image of the medical profession in the society require an examination: how a new generation of physicians understand medicine as profession and further what types of motives drive students to start the medical school. The factors that influence medical students' career choice are complex and diverse. Values, altruistic motives, career plans and subjective life visions of work and family play an important role in decision making.

Background and Objectives:
Hungarian medical students in their first semester, German medical students in their second semester were asked about their motivations and preferences for choosing medical profession. The aim of this study was to investigate simultaneously the views of students of the Hungarian and of the German course and explore similarities or differences in career choice.

Methods
In the academic years 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16 German and Hungarian students completed a self-administered written questionnaire anonymously. Various subjects were submitted for selection and every statement could be rated on a 7-point scale (1 = not important; 7 = important). The data were analyzed statistically.

German course: n = 257; Average age: 21 years; 124 women (48%), 112 men (44%), not specified: 21 (% 8)
Hungarian course: n = 178; Average age: 19 years; 107 women (60%), 69 men (39%), not specified: 2 (1%).

Results and conclusions
Responses showed, that the altruistic motive (helping others, saving life) as well as the interest in the human body were the most important reasons for studying medicine. For the majority of the students also the career prospects (professional challenges, diverse career opportunities) are important. Good earning potential, high social status, good work-life balance are emphatic, but not decisive. Personal role models and influence of Doctor series play a subordinate role. For the Hungarian students the abilities such as “to participate in change in the health care” as well as “to search for new therapeutic options” are more important than for the German students.

References

Students’ Motivation to Study Medicine of German and Hungarian Students at the Medical Faculty of the University Szeged
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Students’ Motivation to Study Medicine of German and Hungarian Students at the Medical Faculty of the University Szeged

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