

Is Your Physician Implicitly Biased? A Fifth Tuesday Follow-up to My New Year's Resolution

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Dr. Bud Wiedermann, MD, MA, Evidence-Emended-Editor, Grand Rounds

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Regular readers of Evidence eMended will recall my [end of the year posting on implicit bias](#) in physicians. At that time, I explained implicit bias as "... the unintended, somewhat submerged bias in all of us that can result in disparities in the health care we provide." I spoke about my early experiences with [Project Implicit](#), a research site with testing aimed at helping us all recognize our own implicit biases, with the hope that this increased self-awareness will allow us to control our biases such that they don't interfere with good patient care. I also promised to follow up on this posting to tell you about my ongoing experiences with Project Implicit testing.

I haven't been as zealously devoted to taking a weekly bias test as I had planned, but by now I've completed several modules. I won't tell you my findings exactly, other than to say I haven't been overly surprised; I expected that, like many people, I had a modest degree of implicit bias in some areas. What I have been most pleased with, however, is the experience of going through the test modules. I can see how the researchers used the rapid response images to collect data on my recognition patterns, and I found myself very excited to complete each module and see how my floundering to categorize various images produces summary results.

In a sense, then, it's actually the process of interacting with the modules that has been helpful to me, and thus I remain very strong in my advice to readers to join me in the experience. It's never too late for New Year's resolutions - why not start now at [Project Implicit!](#)

Also, I do urge you to go back to my [December 29 blog posting](#) to look at the comment from Keyon Mitchell, a medical student at UC Davis who is pushing for implicit bias to become a staple in medical student education.

Further Reading

- [Cognitive Bias in Inpatient Pediatrics](#)
- [Grand Rounds on Facebook](#)
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