

The Authors Reply, “The Weekend Effect in Hospitalized Patients”

Lynn A. Pauls, MD¹, Rebecca Johnson-Paben, MD², John McGready, PhD³, Jamie D. Murphy, MD⁴,
Peter J. Pronovost, MD, PhD⁵, *Christopher L. Wu, MD^{4,5}

¹Department of Anesthesiology, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; ²Department of Medicine, University of Colorado School of Medicine, Denver, Colorado; ³Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland; ⁴Department of Anesthesiology, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland; ⁵Johns Hopkins Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland.

We would like to thank Drs. Flansbaum and Sheehy for their interest in our article.¹ We appreciate their mentioning the highly publicized disputes and additional manuscripts^{2,3} that were published after our literature review, which was conducted in 2013.

As discussed by Drs. Flansbaum and Sheehy and the editorial accompanying our article,⁴ the precise contributions, if any, of various potential factors (eg, patient characteristics, resources, workforce) to the development of the weekend effect is uncertain at this time; although, as mentioned by Drs. Flansbaum and Sheehy, more recent work^{2,3} suggests that patient charac-

teristics may be a more important determinant on outcomes.

Despite the uncertainty surrounding the exact composition and contributions of various elements to the weekend effect, it does appear to be a real phenomenon, as noted by the editorialists.⁴ We hope that our manuscript encourages future investigators to help elucidate the nature of the input contributing to the weekend effect.

References

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***Address for correspondence and reprint requests:** Christopher L. Wu, MD, The Johns Hopkins Hospital, 1800 Orleans Street, Zayed 8-120, Baltimore, MD 21287; Telephone: 410-955-5608; E-mail: chwu@jhmi.edu

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