

# Chapter 4

## Putting it all together: Your type is greater than the sum of its parts

### Your type is represented by a combination of four letters.

By combining the single letter abbreviations for your preferences in each type dimension, the MBTI provides a four-letter representation that describes you. A description of all 16 types can be found in Appendix A. Keep in mind as you evaluate your type description that your type is not a pigeonhole, but a way *you* have chosen to describe yourself. It is as natural as saying, "I really prefer jazz to country music." That statement doesn't confine you to listen only to jazz or restrict you from listening to country music. It does say something, however, about where you are most likely to be found at a music festival.

Table 4.1 demonstrates the consistency among people of the same type. This table shows the results of a study by Isabel Myers where medical students with each of the 16 types selected certain specialties at a statistically higher ratio than would have been predicted by their representation in the overall student population. This demonstrates that medical students with the same type tend to group according to the specialties that are attractive to their particular type. If psychological type were not a consistent part of our behavior, no single specialty would show up on this table as being preferred by any one type. You will notice, however, that *specific* specialties not only show up as preferences, but the *type* of specialty preferred matches the characteristics of the psychological type. For example, the intuitive types (the "N's") tend to like the diagnostic problem-solving found in areas like internal medicine, pediatrics, and psychiatry, while the sensing types (the "S's") tend to like subjects involving medical procedures or routine care such as surgery or family practice. What is not shown in Table 4.1 is that all of the types selected into all of the specialties, although not at a statistically significant rate. Thus, many students select into all specialties regardless of their type, probably because type is not the only

factor in choosing a specialty. One interesting exception to the influence of type is that sensing types demonstrated a negative correlation (i.e. avoidance) with psychiatry!

## People with the same type will also have many differences.

Psychological type is not a stereotype. People with the same type may share similar preferences in their overall mental habits, but they do not behave identically. For example, intuitive types can have interests in such diverse fields as either art or science. What the intuitive artist and the intuitive scientist have in common is the use of their preference for insight and creativity. Similarly, sensing types are not restricted from either art or science. Their preference for what is real and practical will cause the sensing artist to focus more on the practical aspects of art through craftsmanship and realistic representation, while the sensing scientist will focus on the application of scientific principles. In other words, your type indicates how you will tend to act and react according to your individual life experiences, but it does not compel you into exactly

<b>ISTJ</b> Dermatology OB/Gynecology Family Practice	<b>ISFJ</b> Anesthesiology Family Practice Ophthalmology	<b>INFJ</b> Internal Medicine Child Psychiatry	<b>INTJ</b> Child Psychiatry Internal Medicine Pathology
<b>ISTP</b> Anesthesiology OB/Gynecology Radiology	<b>ISFP</b> Anesthesiology Family Practice Urology	<b>INFP</b> Psychiatry Cardiovascular Diseases	<b>INTP</b> Neurology Psychiatry Pathology
<b>ESTP</b> Orthopedic Surgery Dermatology Family Practice	<b>ESFP</b> OB/Gynecology Thoracic Surgery Ophthalmology	<b>ENFP</b> Psychiatry Child Psychiatry Dermatology	<b>ENTP</b> Otolaryngology Psychiatry Radiology
<b>ESTJ</b> OB/Gynecology General Surgery Orthopedic Surgery	<b>ESFJ</b> Pediatrics Orthopedic Surgery Otolaryngology	<b>ENFJ</b> Psychiatry Thoracic Surgery Public Health	<b>ENTJ</b> Neurology Internal Medicine Cardiovascular Diseases

Data from the Specialty Choice Tables, pages 7- 10, in *The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator in Medical Career Planning* by Mary H. McCaulley, 1980. Gainesville, FL: Center for Applications of Psychological Type.

**Table 4.1:** Medical specialties statistically significantly preferred by each type.