Mission Involvement While in Residency and in Practice: Is There a Correlation?

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Background / Motivation

• More students than ever before are participating in plastic surgery global health endeavors
• Residents consistently reflect positively on their experiences
  - Positive impacts on all six ACGME core competencies
• Important to understand factors that serve to stimulate further global health efforts for a lifetime of service
Background

• **Assumption**
  - Global health involvement before and during training translates to greater involvement in practice
• Little data exists to support this notion
Methods

- Survey of ACAPS membership
- **Key points:**
- Current practice structure
- Surgical missions attended at different educational phases
  - Role on mission
  - Locations traveled to
  - Funding sources
  - Local surgeons were trained
  - ACGME approval

Dear Colleagues,

We are asking that you complete the following survey to ascertain the longitudinal impact of international mission experiences and volunteerism during and prior to plastic surgery residency on future involvement as a practicing physician. The purpose of this survey is to determine whether involvement in global health missions before one completes plastic surgery training increases the likelihood for an individual to continue such participation during their career as a practicing plastic surgeon. While we know that individuals who have participated in global health missions during residency often continue such activities during practice, we do not know whether those who did not have such opportunities before or during plastic surgery training are less likely to contribute to global health efforts during their careers. Completing this survey will help to inform program directors of the impact that formal global health opportunities incorporated into the residency program has on future contributions by their graduates to global health.

Sincerely,
Arun Gosain
Daniel Sasson
Aaron Kearney

High School / College  Medical School  Residency  Career
Results

• 60 surgeons returned the survey (response rate 16.5%)
• 18 (30%) had been practicing for less than 10 years, 16 (26.7%) for 10-20 years, and 26 (43.3%) for more than 20 years

Surgical Mission Involvement (% of surgeons)

- High School / College: 18.3%
- Medical School: 1.7%
- Residency: 48.3%
- Career: 80%

p = 0.3275
Results

- Correlation between the **number of missions** attended during residency specifically and in practice
- \( p = 0.981 \)
Key Takeaways

1. Early involvement in surgical missions is not correlated with global health involvement later in life
2. Overall participation in missions was high in the sample of academic plastic surgeons who completed this survey
3. **Residencies should realize it's going to be a significant part of their practice, and they should prepare residents to work in this environment**
4. We should reform programs to incentivize mission involvement
   a. Not consuming vacation time
   b. Earning credit as a rotation
5. Very low participation during medical school; should residency coordinators be introducing this into the curriculum for medical students?
References


Thank You