

Commonwealth Nurses Federation
Commonwealth Secretariat

Summary/Conclusion: With the establishment of the ECSACON website and the creation of the CPD Library, the hope is to provide content-specific modules in areas of nursing and midwifery that would benefit the region and prevent duplication of efforts in the search for updated, relevant CPD content. Steering Committee meetings have created a positive momentum for launching a sustainable structure for the website and library. Challenges include having a plan for maintenance of the library, and ensuring country buy-in.

Ulienda wapi: Long-term follow-up of past participants of North American and European rotations from Moi University School of Medicine, Kenya

J. Huskins¹, P. Owiti², C. Wambui², G. Stone³, R. Umoren¹, J. Helphinstine¹, D.K. Litzelman⁴, S. Mining⁵, P. Ayuo⁵, A. Gardner⁶; ¹Indiana University School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, Indianapolis, IN/US, ²Academic Model Providing Access to Healthcare (AMPATH), Eldoret/KE, ³Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Department of Medicine, Boston, MA/US, ⁴Indiana University School of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Indianapolis, IN/US, ⁵Moi University, College of Health Sciences, School of Medicine, Department of Immunology, Eldoret/KE, ⁶Indiana University School of Medicine, Department of Infectious Diseases, Indianapolis, IN/US

Background: Little research has been done on the impact of international rotations on career choices of medical learners from resource-limited settings or their effect on the “brain-drain” phenomenon. Over 20 years, 256 learners from Moi University School of Medicine (MUSOM) in Eldoret, Kenya have participated in short-term international electives in North America (NA) and Europe. We report the results of a long-term follow-up study on the impact of this experience.

Structure/Method/Design: A cross-sectional survey was conducted of 180 former MUSOM medical students and 33 registrars in medicine and pediatrics with available contact information who participated in medical electives in NA and Europe from 1995

Table 1. Demographics (N = 100)

Age, y (mean)	34
Gender, n (%)	
Female	30 (30)
Male	70 (70)
Hometown, n (%)	
Urban	38 (38)
Rural	62 (62)
Site Rotation, n (%)	
North America	88 (88)
Europe	12 (12)
Current Residence, n (%)	
Kenya (urban)	82 (82)
Kenya (rural)	11 (11)
Primary Employer, n (%)	
Government	62 (62)
Private	22 (22)
Other	15 (15)

to 2010. Study data were collected and managed using a REDCap electronic database survey tool hosted at Indiana University.

Results (Scientific Abstract)/Collaborative Partners (Programmatic Abstract): 100 (47%) trainees responded to the survey: 70% male, mean age 34 years (IQR 30-37 years); 88% of respondents rotated in NA. 78% described it as one of the most influential experiences of their medical education with exposure to different standards of care (89%), exposure to extensive use of technology for diagnosis and treatment (75%), and access to information technology (50%) being the most valued areas. Although 52% reported that the rotation made them more likely to seek opportunities outside Kenya, 93% currently practice in Kenya with 62% employed by the government (Table 1). Respondent opinions on why Kenyan doctors choose to practice medicine outside of Kenya included opportunities for professional advancement (39%) and higher salary (34%).

The most common reasons for remaining in Kenya were family relationships (65%), belief in their professional responsibility to give back to their community/country (53%), and participation in ongoing training/education (43%) (Table 2).

Table 2. Reported Impact of Elective (N = 100)

Describe Rotation Impact, n (%)	
One of the most influential experiences of my medical education	78 (78)
Somewhat influential	21 (21)
Not very influential	1 (1)
Greatest Influence of Elective (Top 3), n (%)	
Different standard of care	89 (89)
Specialty medicine and subspecialty consultation	38 (38)
Extensive use of technology for diagnosis/treatment	75 (75)
Factors for Remaining in Kenya (Top 3), n (%)	
Family relationships	65 (65)
Professional responsibility to give back to community/country	53 (53)
Ongoing training/education	43 (43)

Summary/Conclusion: International medical rotations for trainees from resource-limited settings are valued components of medical education, offering exposure to different standards of patient care and technology. The majority of participants remain in Kenya, arguing against contribution of such electives to “brain drain.” Expressed factors for remaining in Kenya, such as desire to give back to one’s community and educational opportunities, may encourage a “brain gain.”

Capacity building on global health diplomacy (GHD): Experience from the South East Asia region

C. Kanchanachitra; Mahidol University, Institute for Population and Social Research, Nakhon Pathom/TH

Background: “Global health diplomacy” has become ever more important as a new field of global health action with increasing concern from many developed and developing countries. Countries in the Southeast Asia (SEA) region have placed a high priority on