



# Evaluating international global health partnerships: the host perspective

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GLOBAL HEALTH



## Background

- # of international academic partnerships and global health programs is rapidly increasing
- Benefits to visiting international partners are well-documented
- Perceived impacts on host institutions not adequately assessed
- We describe the perspectives of postgraduate, Ugandan trainees toward international collaborations
- Objective: to utilize these perceptions to increase the positive impact of international collaborations for the host institution

## Methods

- Preliminary, pretested, self-administered survey
- Anesthesia and surgery postgraduates trainees at Makerere University College of Health Sciences (MakCHS) – Kampala, Uganda

## Results

**Table I: Demographics**

Variable	Sub Category	Total	Percentage
Department [n (%)]	Surgery	20	61%
	Anesthesia	13	39%
Age [mean years (SD)]		31	
Female [n (%)]		9	29%
Marital Status [n (%)]	Married	16	48%
	Single	17	52%
Number of Dependents (mode)		2	
Funding Source [n (%)] n=32	Self	6	19%
	International scholarship*	11	34%
	Domestic Scholarship**	15	47%
	Scholarship coverage [n (%)]		
	Tuition	26	100%
	Living expenses	12	46%
	Research fees	9	35%

\* International scholarships include any tuition funding source listed by respondents that was provided by a non-Ugandan entity  
\*\*Domestic scholarship sources include any funding source from within Uganda (e.g. Ministry of Health, local charity organizations, former employer)

**Table III: Challenges faced**

Reported challenges	N	%
Getting research topics		80%
Lack of protected research time		70 %
Financial burden		64%
Inadequate research training		54%
Low value attached to research output		50 %
Inadequate mentorship and supervision		50%

**Table II: Ranking visiting group activity by utility**

Activity	Rank*					Number of responses	Median	IQR
	1	2	3	4	5			
Specialist camps	7	12	1	7	1	28	2	3
Skills workshops	15	5	5	1	1	29	1	2
Scholarships	11	1	5	5	6	28	3	3
Increased access to educational resources	1	8	7	6	5	27	3	2
Additional Support on wards and operating rooms	2	0	7	5	14	28	4	2

\*Respondents were instructed to rank each activity, with "1" being the "most useful" and "5" as "least useful."  
IQR, interquartile range.

**Table IV: Host trainee perspectives**

	Strongly Disagree, n (%)	Disagree, n (%)	Neutral, n (%)	Agree, n (%)	Strongly agree, n (%)
I am uncomfortable with the ethics of some clinical decisions made by visiting faculty and trainees.	10 (31)	5 (16)	7 (22)	10 (31)	0
I have received adequate training in ethics	3 (9)	6 (19)	9 (28)	5 (16)	9 (28)
I am uncomfortable with the ethics of some clinical decisions made by faculty (local).	4 (12)	10 (30)	9 (27)	10 (30)	0
Visiting trainees overall improve my training experience.	2 (6)	1 (3)	9 (28)	13 (41)	7 (22)
Visiting faculty overall improve my training experience.	0	2 (6)	5 (16)	16 (50)	9 (28)
Equipment donated to the hospital is routinely available to me while working.	4 (12)	7 (22)	5 (16)	12 (38)	4 (12)
Donated equipment comes with adequate user training and support services.	6 (18)	5 (16)	14 (44)	6 (19)	1 (3)
Research projects undertaken by visiting/international groups are in the greatest priority areas for Uganda.	5 (16)	3 (9)	19 (60)	3 (9)	2 (6)
Research projects undertaken by visiting/international groups are done with appropriate level of Ugandan input and collaboration.	3 (9)	2 (6)	16 (50)	10 (32)	1 (3)
I feel international/visiting groups to Mulago improve my learning/training.	1 (3)	3 (9)	4 (13)	16 (50)	8 (25)
I feel international/visiting groups to Mulago improve quality of patient care.	4 (13)	3 (9)	6 (18)	14 (44)	5 (16)
I have participated in collaborative research with a visiting/international group.	No 23 (72)	Yes 9 (28)			
I have published as a coauthor through research with a visiting/international group.	32 (100)	0			

## Conclusions

- MakCHS surgery & anesthesia trainees demonstrates overall positive perception of working with international collaborators
- Significant areas to improve international collaborations identified
- Training, skills workshops, specialist camps and visiting faculty involvement most useful
- Several challenges identified in such areas as collaborative research and ethical practices of visitors

## Future directions

- Additional perspectives from faculty and trainees in other departments needed
- Focused interviews to identify solutions to highlighted challenges
- Critical examination of ethical practices of visitors is needed

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