

Facilitators and Barriers to Family Medicine Resident Engagement in Global Health: A Secondary Data Analysis of a CERA Study

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Background

Global health is an area for study, research, and practice that places a priority on improving health and achieving equity in health for all people worldwide.

Currently, nearly all medical schools have incorporated some form of global health teaching into their curricula, and more than 25% of U.S. medical school graduates enter residency training with some international health experience.

Goals/Objectives

These medical school experiences have been shown to increase students' interest in primary care as well as to significantly influence their residency preferences in favor of programs with global health opportunities.

A 1998 survey showed 45% (95/429) of family medicine residency programs reported offering international rotations.

- What is the current status of global health within family medicine residency programs?
- What are the facilitators and barriers to resident engagement in global health?

Methods

Design:

A secondary data analysis of a cross-sectional, national family medicine residency program director survey was conducted (CERA Survey PD-6). Data were obtained from the Council of Academic Family Medicine Educational Research Alliance (CAFM) data clearinghouse. Data were collected between January and March of 2015.

Participants:

The sampling frame for the survey was all ACGME accredited US family medicine residency program directors as identified by the Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors (AFMRD).

Table 1.

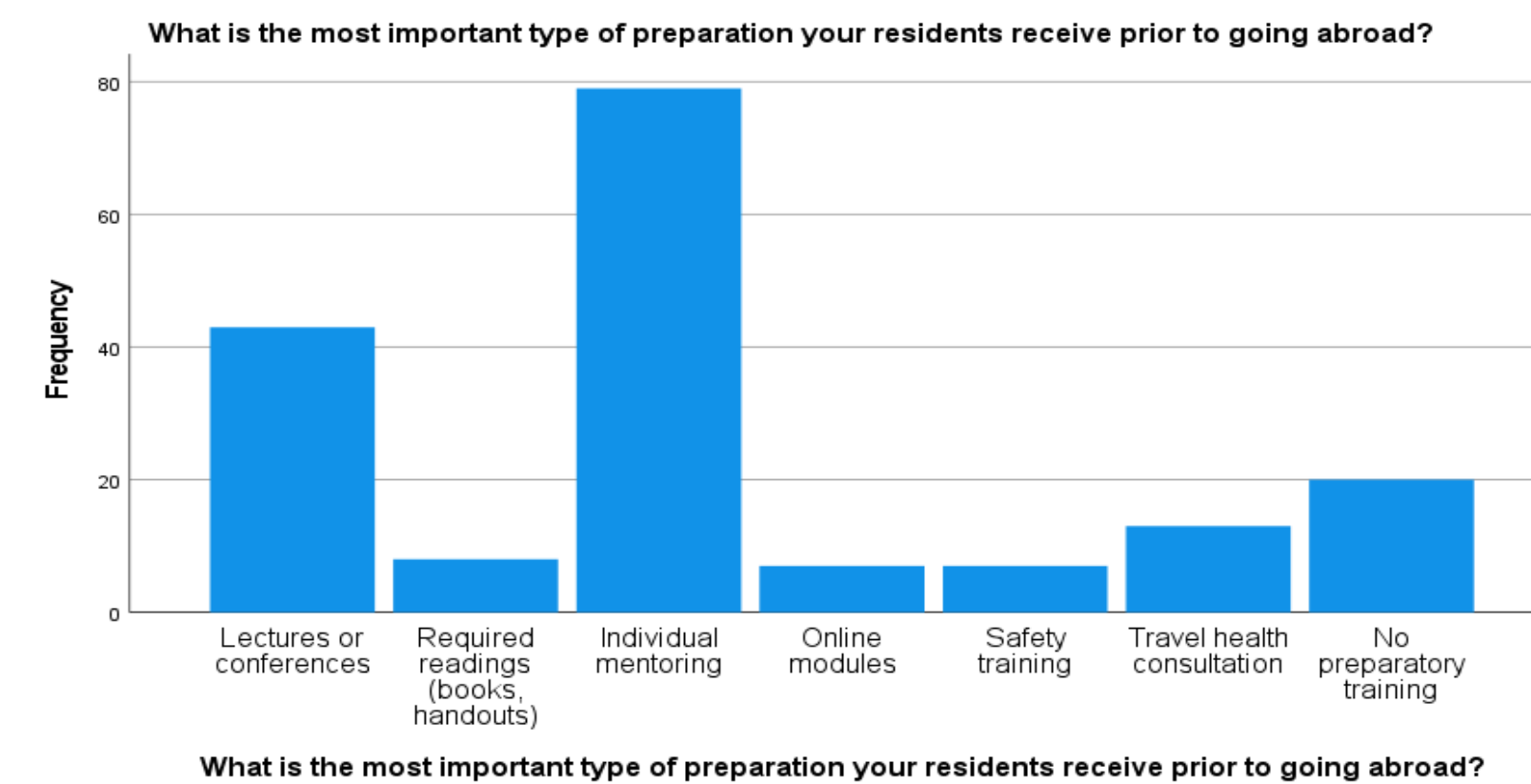


Table 2.

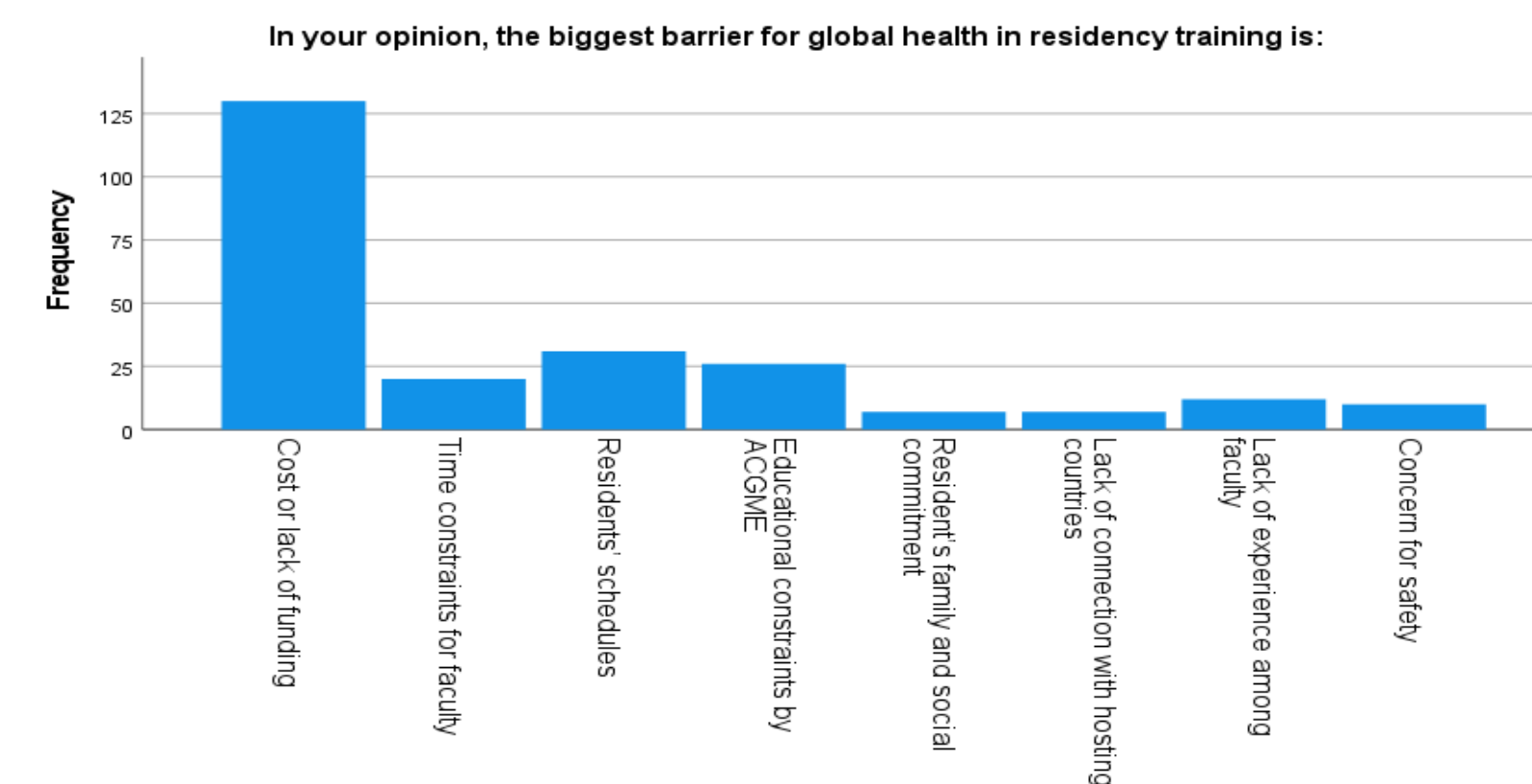


Table 3.

	0%	1-20%	21-40%	41-60%	61-80%	81-100%	Total
0%	3	2	0	0	0	0	5
1-20%	8	50	17	5	1	0	81
21-40%	5	24	23	5	1	0	58
41-60%	0	3	16	5	3	0	27
61-80%	0	2	2	2	1	0	7
81-100%	0	1	1	2	1	2	7
Total	16	82	59	19	7	2	185

($r=0.52, p<0.01$)

Results

- The overall response rate for the survey was 60.62% (274/452) and a total of n=257 (56.9%) answered questions related to global health.
- 74% of respondents indicated their program offered global health experiences.
- Primary goal in offering a global health experience was to prepare physicians to practice underserved medicine and to teach community medicine or public health. No significant difference between university-affiliated and community-based programs.
- More family medicine residency programs now are offering international rotations compared to that reported in 1998 (74% vs 45%).
- The most important type of preparation residents received prior to going abroad was individual mentoring. Resident engagement in global health activities was significantly correlated with faculty engagement in global health activities.

Conclusions

There are more global health experiences happening in family medicine residencies than in decades past.

A facilitation in family medicine resident engagement appears to be faculty engagement as well.

As increasing numbers of family medicine residents engage in global health, future work should examine the characteristics of these experiences, especially as it relates to ethical practices.