Postgraduate Medical Training in Ireland: Being Global while Staying Local

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Introduction

- By underlining the interconnectedness of the health of all humanity and the natural world, Covid-19 has demonstrated the need to train doctors for a sustainable, equitable and globalised world: Health IS Global!
- Global Health education in Ireland is limited across postgraduate training.

"health professionals who are **globally competent and locally relevant**"

World Health Organization

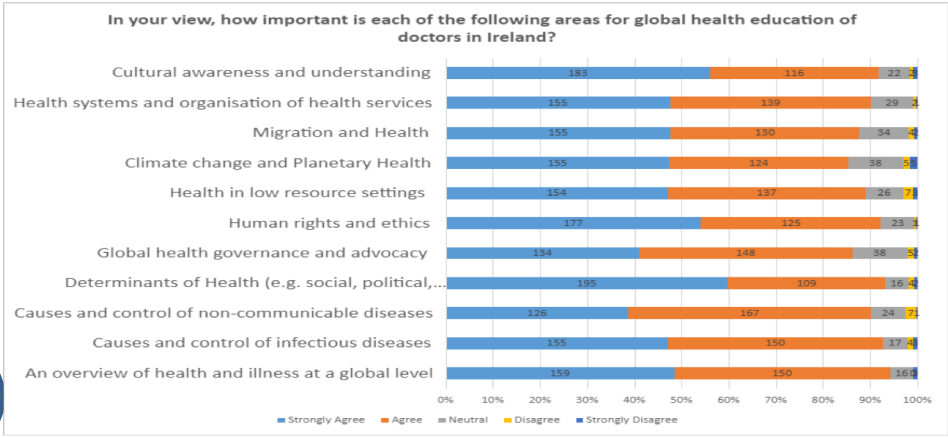
Aim

- Develop an educational framework of core competencies in Global Health, applicable across the continuum of training in Irish postgraduate medical training.

Method

- Broad based project group including: trainees, trainers, doctors in non-training posts, educational and subject experts.
- Online questionnaire, disseminated to a cross-sectional sample of doctors in Ireland.
- Informed by: a literature review, consensus amongst the project group and feedback gathered at the Global Health Education Ireland Symposium 2020.
- A Likert scale measured participants' perceived importance of a number of enabling Global Health competencies.
- Included free text spaces (thematically analysed) to suggest and discuss other aspects of Global Health that may not have been considered by the group.

Results



- Respondents = 331
- From all specialties (as per Medical Council of Ireland) and across the continuum of training.
- Overwhelmingly positive.
- Strong agreement with the Global Health competencies identified.

Respondents' views highlighted need for training in:

- Equity &Equality
- Planetary Health & Sustainability
- Culture, Communication & Ethics
- Social Inclusion
- Health Systems
- Migration
- Health Education

Observations from free text spaces:

- "Global should focus equally on both physical and mental health…"
- "Important to highlight that each person's contribution makes a difference, develop fellowships in this subject towards future leadership roles, recognition by colleges of the issue/need and allowance of time for secondment during training, for training in this subject…"
- "Encouragement by College of Psychiatry for research into global health and the provision of free webinars on this…"

Conclusion

- The consultation has informed the development of a Global Health competency framework.
- This framework is a first step towards incorporating Global Health education into Irish postgraduate medical training.
- It is also informing the development of a Global Health eLearning Module applicable across the continuum of training in all postgraduate specialties.

- Development Funding was generously provided by National Doctors Training and Planning.
- This is an educational development project, conducted and endorsed by the Forum of Irish Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies.
- Previously presented at the Irish Network of Healthcare Educators 2021 Annual Scientific Meeting.