

## **PS2.174**

### **Primum non nocere: the ethical volunteer**

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**Background & Aim:** Medical volunteering in resource-poor settings is often perceived as an altruistic pursuit for many family physicians and trainees. However, the increase in popularity has been met with an increase in concern about potential harm, amongst other ethical pitfalls. By highlighting these issues, this poster aims to prompt an ethical consideration by any Primary Care practitioner planning on volunteering in a resource-poor setting.

**Method:** We present a review of some key literature from the emerging field of ethical volunteering, along with reflections from our own organisations' experiences in facilitating and participating in such placements.

**Results:** Lessons from the literature and experience, summary of 'pros' and 'cons' of volunteering, some practical guidance and some possible solutions from social research are presented as an answer to the ethical dilemmas.

**Conclusions:** With reflexive adherence to practical and theoretical ideals, volunteering can generate mutual gains and be strongly supported by the ethical pillars of autonomy, justice, beneficence and non-maleficence.