

## PS2.186

### Inspiring primary care trainees through the Global Health Exchange Project

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**Background:** The Global Health Exchange Fellowship was piloted as a six month project aimed at making global health real through experiential learning for UK and Kenyan trainees in Primary Care.

**Methods:** The fellows performed health needs analyses using Qualitative research methods in two areas of deprivation- a rural Maasai community in Kenya, and an inner city in the UK. Health issues identified were organised into themes which were prioritised by the communities, using an innovative voting methodology developed by the fellows to promote community engagement. Findings were presented to local health authorities to inform resource allocation, improve health and reduce inequalities.

**Results:** Each fellow experienced remarkable personal and professional development including; transferrable problem-solving skills (working with each community to develop context-specific sustainable solutions), and a greater understanding of global health, the socio-economic determinants of health, the similarities in themes in areas of deprivation in low and high income countries, the impact of poverty on health, competence in working within community-oriented teams, the structure and economic limitations of healthcare systems, and the roles of other professionals involved in health-related community policies. They developed competence in academic writing and established international professional networks.

**Conclusions:** The project is a true exchange between Primary Care professionals practicing in low and high income countries in terms of location, knowledge and experiences. It involved a multi-professional and multi-cultural team including a newly qualified Family Physician, two GP trainees and a Clinical officer. Research shows that education is most effective when learners work in groups, challenge ideas and collaborate to achieve solutions to problems. Experiential learning is “learning through reflection on doing”, which focuses on the learning process for the individual, as demonstrated by this innovative pilot project. “for the things that we have to learn before we can do them, we learn by doing them”. (Aristotle)