

W41

Lessons from a far off land: The ethics and impact of medical volunteerism in family medicine

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Background & Aim: Every year hundreds of doctors from across Europe travel around the globe to volunteer overseas. What effect does this have on European and overseas health systems? How does it contribute to professional and personal development of doctors? Are there any special considerations for Family Medicine/Primary Care orientated work? This workshop aims to share personal examples of medical volunteering overseas, provide an overview of current research into the effects of medical volunteerism and to encourage participants to explore and share their own views on the ethics and effects of medical volunteerism.

Method: There will be 3 presentations from GPs who have volunteered overseas, sharing their personal experiences and perspectives. This will be followed by small group work looking at:

- 1) Advantages, disadvantages and learning opportunities for individual doctors
- 2) Advantages, disadvantages and learning opportunities for overseas health systems
- 3) Advantages, disadvantages and learning opportunities for European health systems

Each group will be encouraged to consider any specific issues that may be unique to medical volunteerism in the field of Family Medicine and Primary Care. The work shop will close with a summary of the latest research into medical volunteerism and signpost people to opportunities for further learning and opportunities for Family Medicine Doctors in this field. Results and **Conclusions:** Key discussion points will be communicated live on social media under MedicalVolunteer . The outcomes of the workshop will be developed into a declaration on Medical Volunteerism and disseminated through the Vasco de Gama Beyond Europe group and other relevant WONCA SIGs and Working Parties.