

# Survey of CMF Graduate Members about International Work in Resource-poor Settings

## Summary

An on-line survey was sent to the 3,358 graduate members with whom we are in email contact in May 2010, to learn about members' involvement in medical mission and international work – past, present and future. 1,121 members responded and there was an encouraging level of interest - 50% of the respondents said that they are considering the possibility of international work in the future.

230 respondents have served long term in the past in 48 countries around the world, 74% with a mission or church organization. 459 have made short term visits (<6 months) to 98 countries, most commonly to train and teach. 77 respondents are currently working abroad long term in 36 different countries, Africa being the commonest continent. 125 respondents are actively planning long term international work in the future and 202 are planning short term trips.

296 respondents are involved in international work in other ways than going overseas, including working for international organisations based in UK and serving on boards and committees. 595 respondents volunteered to support members currently working overseas by giving advice, updates, appraisals or visits.

## Results

Most questions were not mandatory so percentages are taken from the number who answered each individual question

Survey sent to 3,358 members  
Total started survey 1,121  
Total completed survey 1,053

Response rate 33%

## Respondents

21% junior doctors  
55% career grade  
24% retired (see fig 1)

All specialties were represented, with general practice the commonest, reflecting CMF's membership (see fig 2)

Fig. 1 Career level of respondents

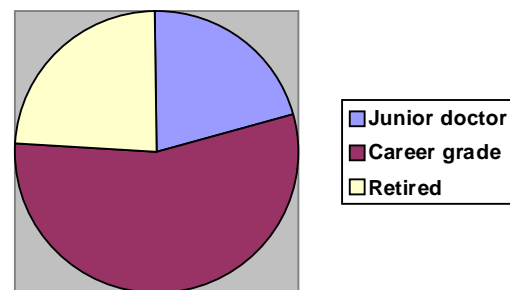
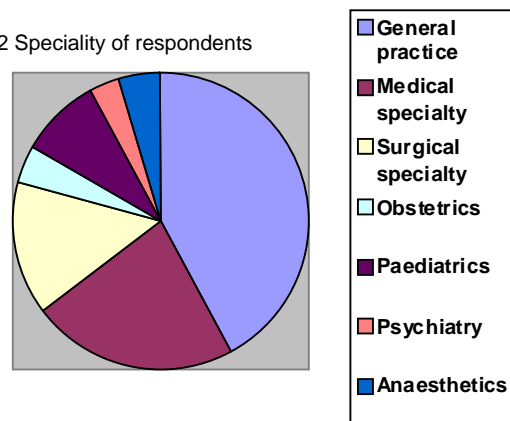


Fig. 2 Speciality of respondents



## Interest and Involvement in International work

### Interest in international work

'Actively planning' service long or short term

149 (15%)

'Considering possibility' of future service

358 (35%)

'Not thinking of working abroad' 492 (50%)

Answers to other questions revealed that a number of those 'actively planning' do not have concrete plans but good intentions. However, the figures show that half the respondents have an interest in working abroad (see fig 3)

Fig. 3 Level on interest in international work



The junior doctors were the most interested group:

78% of the juniors expressed interest in working overseas

52% career grade are interested

22% retired are interested

The junior doctors also had the highest proportion of those 'actively planning' to work overseas long term (see fig 4)

24% of the juniors are 'actively planning' long term service

12% career grade doctors are 'actively planning' long term service

5% retired doctors are 'actively planning' long term service

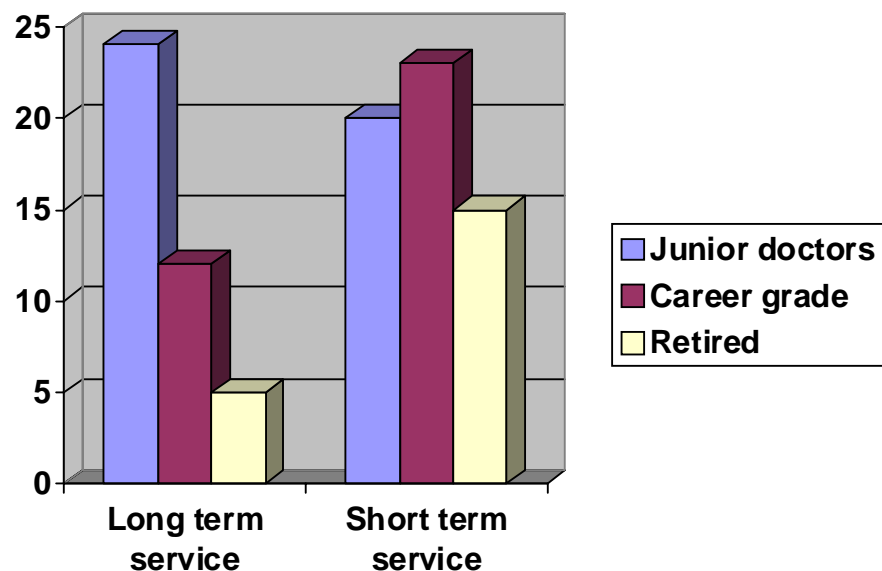
Career grade and retired doctors were more likely to be planning short term service (see fig 4)

20% of the juniors are 'actively planning' short term service

23% career grade doctors are 'actively planning' short term service

15% retired doctors planning are 'actively planning' short term service

Fig. 4 percentage of each age group 'actively planning' future service



## Involvement in International Work

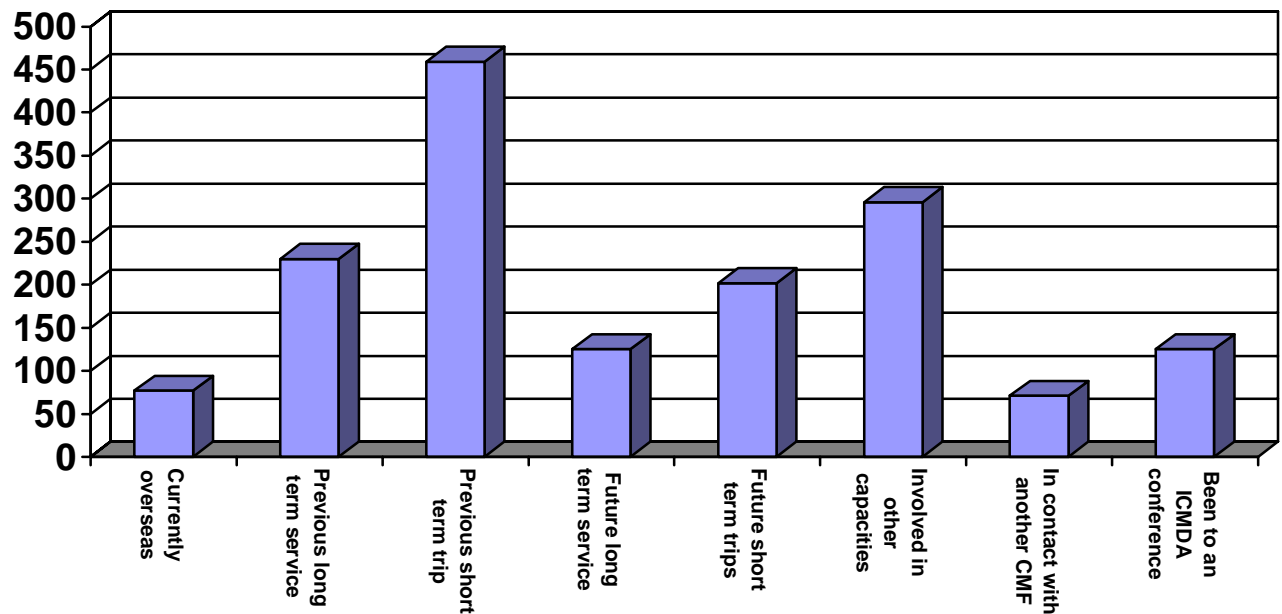
77 respondents are currently overseas  
230 respondents have served long term in the past  
459 have served short term in the past

125 are planning long term service in the future  
202 are planning short term service in the future

296 are involved in another capacity (eg working in UK for international agencies, serving on boards and committees, supporting projects and individuals)

68 are in contact with a CMF in another country (30 different countries from all continents)  
125 have been to an ICMDA conference

Fig.5 Numbers of Members involved in international work past, present and future



## Long term service

230 respondents have served long term in the past  
125 are planning long term service in the future

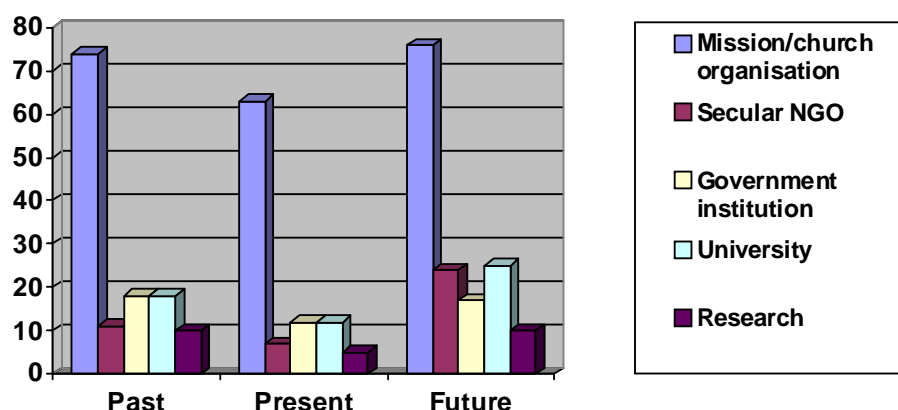
70% of those planning long term work have been on a short term trip in the past

### Type of setting/organisation

Mission or church organisations were the commonest context for long term service in the past, present and future. Other settings included secular NGOs, government institutions, universities and teaching hospitals and research units.

A higher proportion of respondents are planning to go with secular NGOs and to university posts than in the past (see fig 6)

Fig. 6 percentages of long termers working in different settings

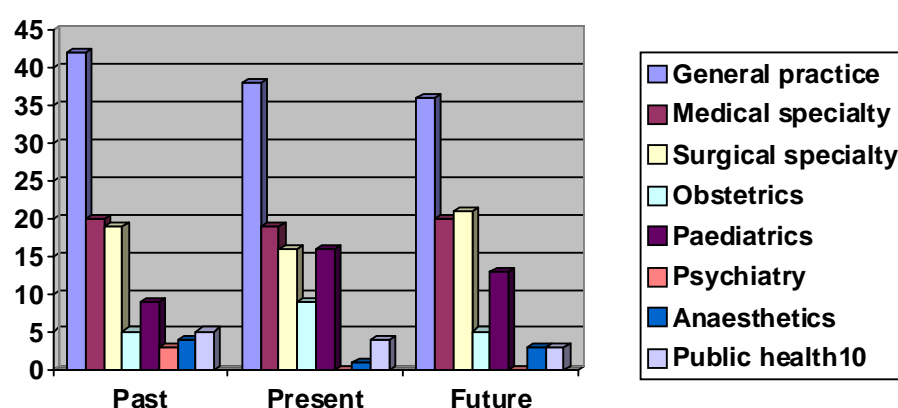


### Specialty

The numbers of long-termers from different specialties was similar in the past, present and future (see fig 7)

Commonest medical specialties were palliative care and infectious diseases, commonest surgical specialties were ophthalmology and orthopaedics.

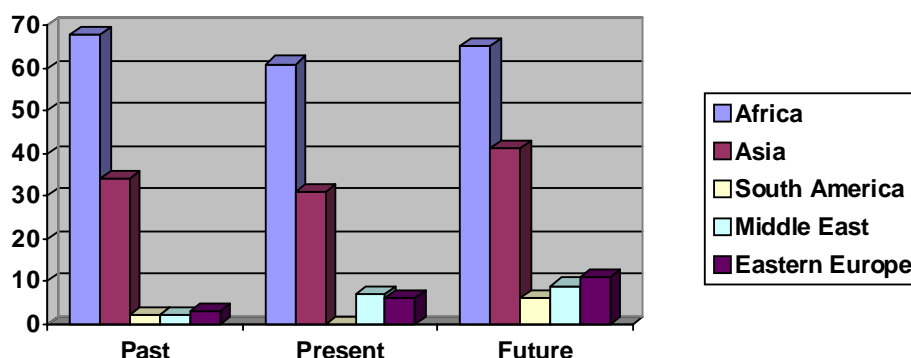
Fig. 7 percentages of long termers in different specialties



### Country of service

Respondents have served in 48 countries around the world, from every continent. Africa is by far the commonest continent (see fig 8)

Fig. 8 percentages of long termers in different continents



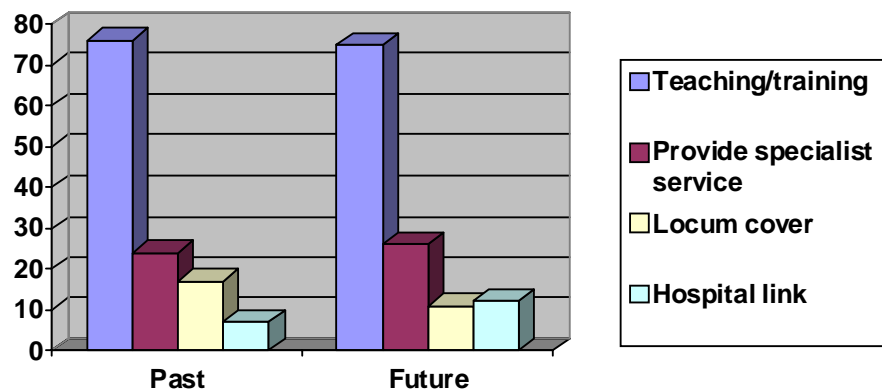
## Short term service

459 have served short term in the past  
202 are planning short term service in the future  
167 respondents are doing regular visits

### Purpose of visit

Teaching and training is the commonest purpose of short term visits. Other visits are done to provide a specialist service or a locum for a long-terminer. A small number of respondents are involved in hospital links (see fig 9) Other respondents also mentioned visits to friends/mission partners, non-medical trips and student camps

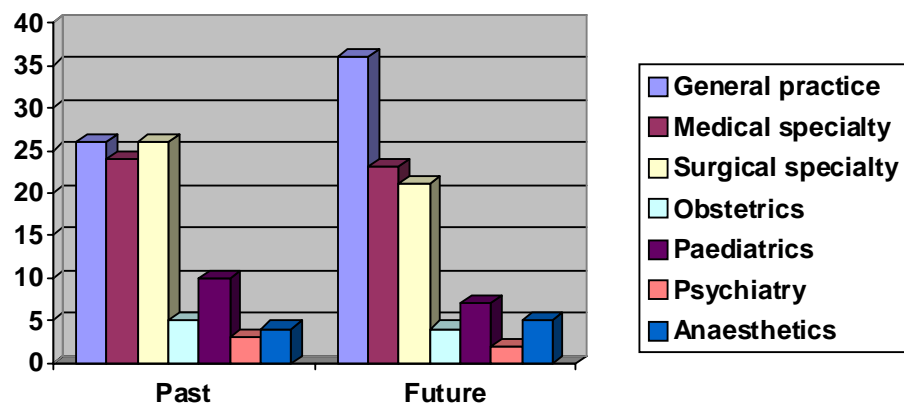
Fig. 9 Purpose of short term visits



### Specialty

The spread of specialties can be seen in fig 10. Those providing a specialist service were most commonly surgeons or ophthalmologists.

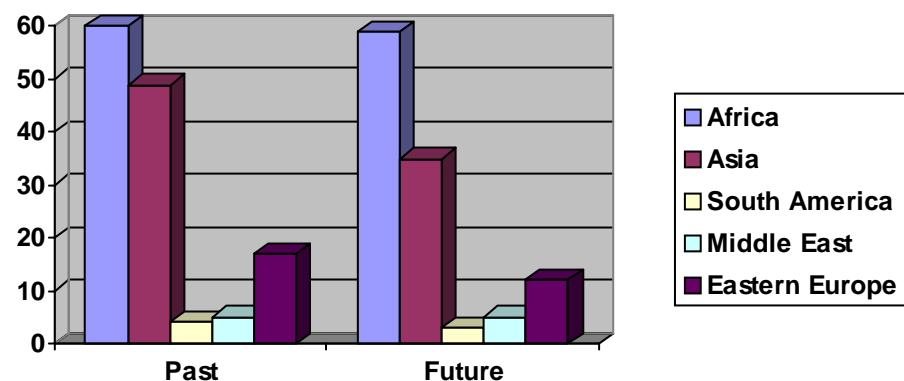
Fig. 10 Specialties of those doing short term visits



### Continent

98 countries around the world have received short term visits from CMF members. Africa was the commonest continent (fig 11)

Fig. 11 percentages of short term visits in different continents



## Helping overseas members

595 respondents are willing to help in at least one of the following ways, and many in more than one;

Receive alerts of needs (346)

Be a 'buddy' for an overseas member (250)

Give appraisals (150)

Email advice (310)

Short term placement for overseas members (121)

### Other ways respondents offered to help:

Talking/mentoring those thinking of going

Teaching/research/examining overseas- lots of interest in Prime

Teaching on courses in UK

Advice re publishing papers

Prayer

Finance

Hosting / practical / pastoral help for those on leave

Supporting International students / CMF / ICMDA

## Interest in an on-line forum

396 respondents indicated that they would like to join an on-line forum for health professionals interested in medical mission and international work. Doctors from all age groups were interested (fig 12)

Fig. 12 Age of those interested in on-line forum

