

BAPS INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE: A REPORT OF INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS

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Aims: The International Affairs Committee (IAC) has, since 2005, offered international fellowships to trainee paediatric surgeons from around the world. The fellowships offer attendance to the annual BAPS conference and facilitates senior trainees who wish to travel to the UK to have exposure to paediatric surgery in a tertiary centre. We report the IACs fellowship experience since inception in 2005.

Methods: Recipients of the fellowship between 2005 - 2016 were contacted and asked to complete an electronic questionnaire. Fellows are described as per their home institution. Quantitative analysis was conducted and outcomes reported in emergent themes: (1) benefits to the fellow's professional development; (2) benefits to their hospital and (3) benefits to their local community.

Main Results: 39 fellowships were awarded over the 11-year period to trainees from 22 low income countries (LIC): Africa (n=10), Asia (n=3), South-East Asia (n=4) and the Middle East (n=5).

Two trainees are yet to commence the fellowship (awarded in 2016), and four have been unable to carry it out as they have not been granted a visa (countries of origin: Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Syria). 11 had several attempts before a visa was granted. Table 1 reports emergent core themes.

Of those who completed the fellowship (n=37), all are now consultants. 25/37 (67%) are heads of department, 5 (14%) are leading on laparoscopic training, one in paediatric urology (Sudan) and one in trauma (India). Two developed children's hospitals (India and Tanzania).

One is editor of the African Journal of Paediatric Surgery and one is secretary of the Pan African Association of Paediatric Surgeons (PAPSA). Two were commissioners on the Lancet Commission of Global Surgery (2015).

Conclusion: The IAC fellowships are well received and are succeeding in the IAC's aims of promoting international collaboration, facilitating regional and national development of paediatric surgery and personal development.