

Planning your medical elective, an opportunity to explore medical mission?

Handout

Ellie McBain FY1, Glasgow

elliemcbain@gmail.com

Fi McLachlan, Head of CMF Global

Fi.mclachlan@cmf.org.uk *Available for a zoom call to discuss your elective/ interest in medical mission*

Julie-Ann Amartey, FY1

julieann.amartey@gmail.com

Katie May Adams, FY1

Katiemayadams01@gmail.com

What does the Bible have to say about medicine?

Jesus met the people's physical needs and spiritual needs of those around him:

Matthew 8:16-When evening came, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill.

Matthew 14:14 When He went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and felt compassion for them and healed their sick.

Luke 4:40 While the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and laying His hands on each one of them, He was healing them.

Mark 2:17 On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

What is medical mission and why should I consider doing one for my elective?

Medical missions enable medical students to combine their faith with medicine in a more practical way enabling professional and spiritual growth. Not only will you be able to learn new things and gain perspective on what medicine is like in other parts of the world, medical missions are also a great opportunity for you to consider whether taking your medical practice overseas is something you would want to do in the future. Many mission hospitals are overtly Christian and so medical professionals can freely share the gospel with their patients whilst also providing medical care meeting both their physical and spiritual

needs. Medical electives are a way to test the waters of cross-cultural mission and perhaps you might find it is the field in which God has called you into.

Even if you don't feel as though medical missions is for you, doing medical missions is a unique opportunity to share God's love and the hope of Christ to unreached people groups in a clinical environment.

What opportunities are there after the elective?

Once you are a qualified medical professional there are still plenty of opportunities to do medical missions....

Important things to consider before applying to medical missions

1. Where Is God leading you?
2. Rural vs urban Hospitals
3. Financial costs
4. Travelling alone vs travelling in a group
5. Limitations of short-term mission trips – language barrier, lack of continuity (after leaving), inadequate resources, not understanding the culture, white saviour complex

Some questions to ask the medical students /doctors who did their electives (Q+A?)

- Where did you go (country and region)?
- How long did you go for?
- What was it like?
- Did you previously consider medical missions as a future career?
- Who did you go with?
- Who was it organised by?
- When did you start planning?
- What did you enjoy the most?
- Financial logistics – How was it funded?
- What was your experience like?
- What were the challenges you faced?
- How has this experience affected you?
- What would you change?
- What did you learn?
- Language barrier?
- What you wish you knew about electives?
- Is it possible to integrate continuity in short term service?
- Any other tips

What organisation facilitate medical placements for doctors and nurses?

Short term mission opportunities: CMF website resources

Organisation database- https://admin.cmf.org.uk/pdf/Organisations_for_electives2.pdf

Placement database-<https://admin.cmf.org.uk/pdf/international/Hospitals-for-electives.pdf>

Funding -https://admin.cmf.org.uk/pdf/international/Global_Electives_Funding_Sources.pdf

CMF medical elective handbook- <https://admin.cmf.org.uk/pdf/international/ehb.pdf>

Prepare for your medical elective-

http://admin.cmf.org.uk/pdf/international/medical_elective.pdf

Would you like to take a paper BNF with you to leave behind with a health care worker?

You can contact Dr Niru, CMF member and Consultant physician in Carlisle who would be pleased to post one to you.

Key points from the seminar:

Go as a humble learner

Choose your placement carefully- could this be a place you could go back to later on?

Start planning early, 12-18 months ahead of the time you want to go

Take out comprehensive travel insurance

Seek travel health advice relevant to your destination

References

1. <https://www.biblegateway.com/>
2. <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/medical-school/electives-medical-school>
3. <https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/education-practice/advice/how-decide-your-medical-elective>
4. <https://www.ufm.org.uk/go/short-term/medical-ministries/>
5. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jkkNo_upwZA
6. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uSJ-Y0ey_0
7. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=haFdtgUr52s>