

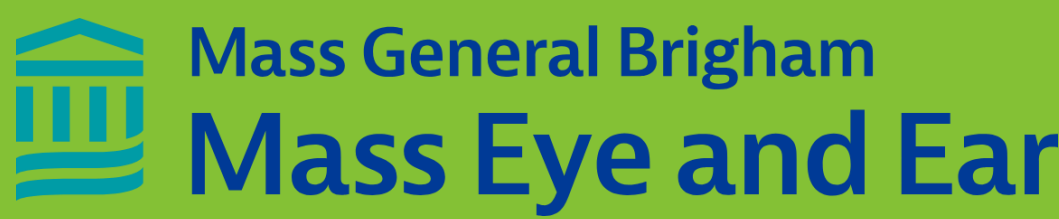
# Importance of Global Health Opportunities in Residency Selection Among Otolaryngology Applicants

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## Background

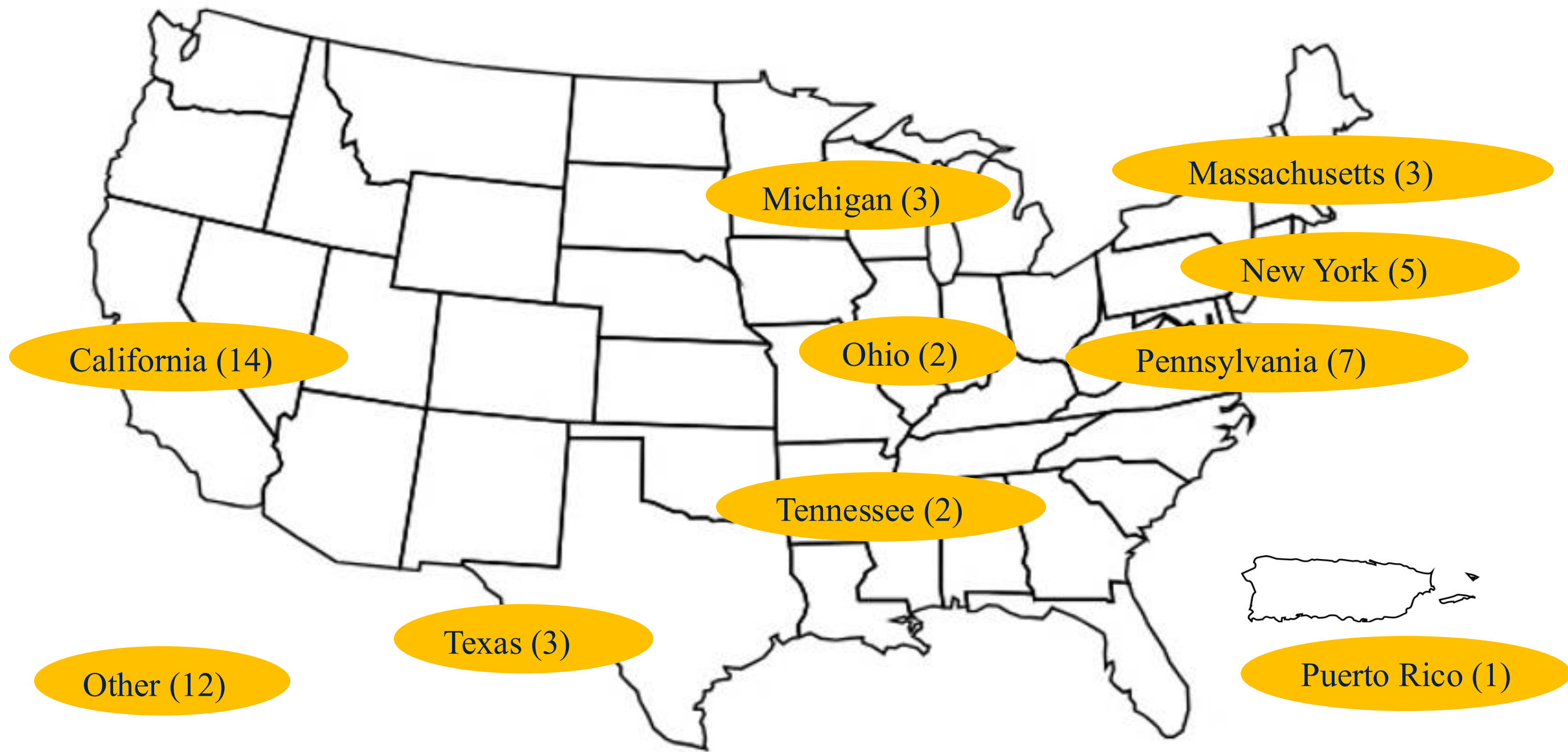
- **Rising demand for Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery (OHNS) care**, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)
- **Collaborations between institutions** in high-income countries (HICs) and LMICs are leading to **growing opportunities** in global OHNS research and capacity-building
- **OHNS trainees increasingly interested in global health**
- However, most U.S. OHNS residency programs offer **limited support, mentorship, or structured time for global health engagement**
- Other specialties have examined trainee interest in global health, but **data is lacking for OHNS residency applicants**.

**We aim to evaluate how global health opportunities influence residency program selection among OHNS applicants.**

## Methods



## Results



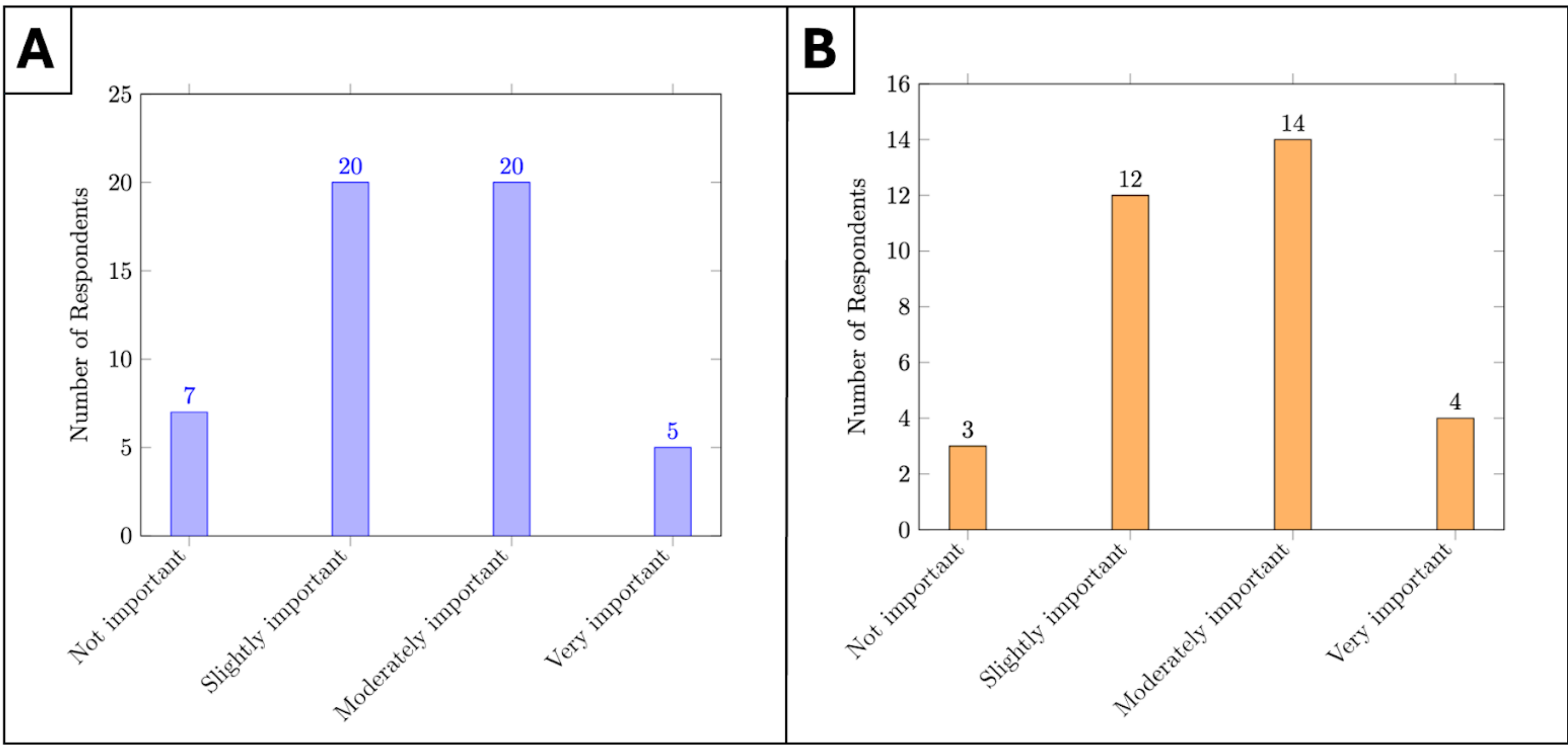
**Figure 1.** Geographic distribution of Otolaryngology residency applicants (N = 52).

**Table 1.** Demographic characteristics of Otolaryngology residency applicants.

Characteristic	N = 52
<b>Application Year (N, %)</b>	
2024 Cycle	33 (57.9)
2023 Cycle	24 (42.1)
<b>Age, years</b>	
	Mean 28.7 (SD 2.4, range 25–41)
<b>Gender Identity (N, %)</b>	
Women	30 (52.6)
Men	23 (44.2)
Transgender / Prefer not to disclose	2 (3.8)
<b>Gap Years</b>	
Between undergraduate and medical school	Mean 1.6 (SD 1.7, range 0–10)
During medical school	Mean 0.6 (SD 0.9, range 0–5)

**Table 2.** Motivations, influential factors, and prior experiences in global health among Otolaryngology residency applicants (N = 52).

Theme	N (%)
<b>Motivations for Engagement</b>	
Learning new cultures	39 (76.5)
Work in domestically in resource-constrained settings	31 (60.8)
Work in internationally	28 (54.9)
Work in low-resource settings, generally	26 (50.9)
Travel	26 (50.9)
Research	23 (45.1)
Using foreign language skills	23 (45.1)
Improving compassion/empathy	20 (39.2)
<b>Influential Factors in Residency Selection</b>	
Faculty mentors	46 (80.4)
Prior resident involvement	38 (66.7)
Funding opportunities	37 (64.7)
Research / elective time	31 (60.8)
Structured curriculum/coursework	29 (56.9)
<b>Prior Global Health Experiences</b>	
Global health interest groups/organizations	19 (33.3)
Coursework (undergraduate or medical school)	15 (27.5)
International mission trips	16 (29.4)
International research	12 (23.5)
International capacity building (education, advocacy)	10 (19.6)



**Figure 2.** (A) Importance of global health opportunities in residency program selection among Otolaryngology residency applicants (N = 52). (B) Importance of global health opportunities in residency program selection among respondents with previous global health experience (N = 33).

## Conclusions

- **Key Findings**
  - **>50% OHNS residency applicants reported prior global health experience**
    - Interest in international and domestic work
  - Global health is **slightly to moderately important factor in residency selection**
    - Mentorship, prior resident involvement, funding opportunities
  - **Benefits:**
    - Cultural learning, clinical growth, service to underserved populations
- **Recommendations**
  - Build structured opportunities with mentorship, protected time, and support
  - Include both international and domestic low-resource training sites
- **Future Directions**
  - Develop global health tracks with funding, networks, and dedicated time
  - Incorporate partner perspectives to ensure equitable collaboration