

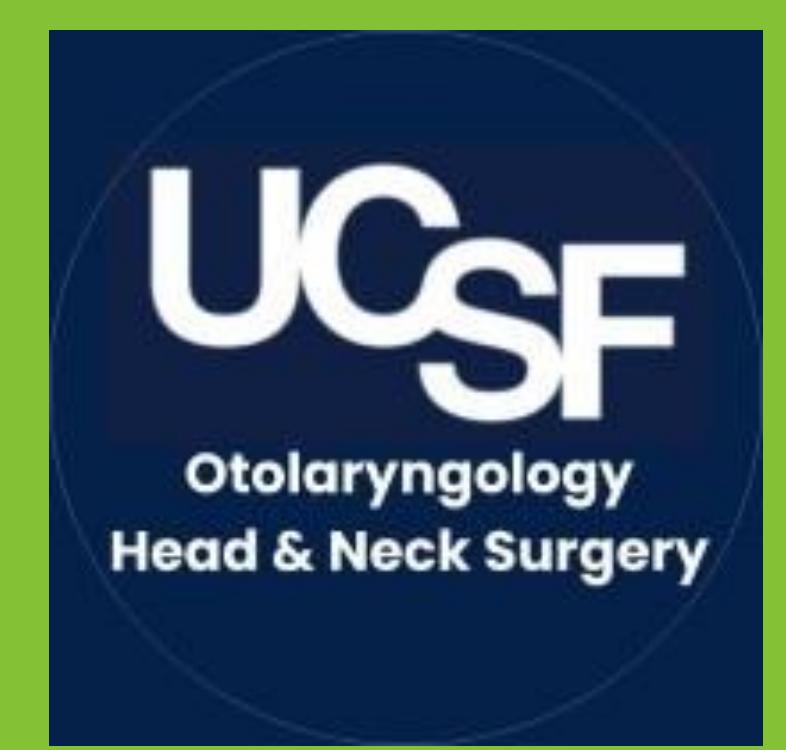
Importance of Global Health Opportunities in Residency Selection Among Otolaryngology Applicants

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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



Cross-sectional survey with snowball sampling



Statistical and thematic analysis

Results

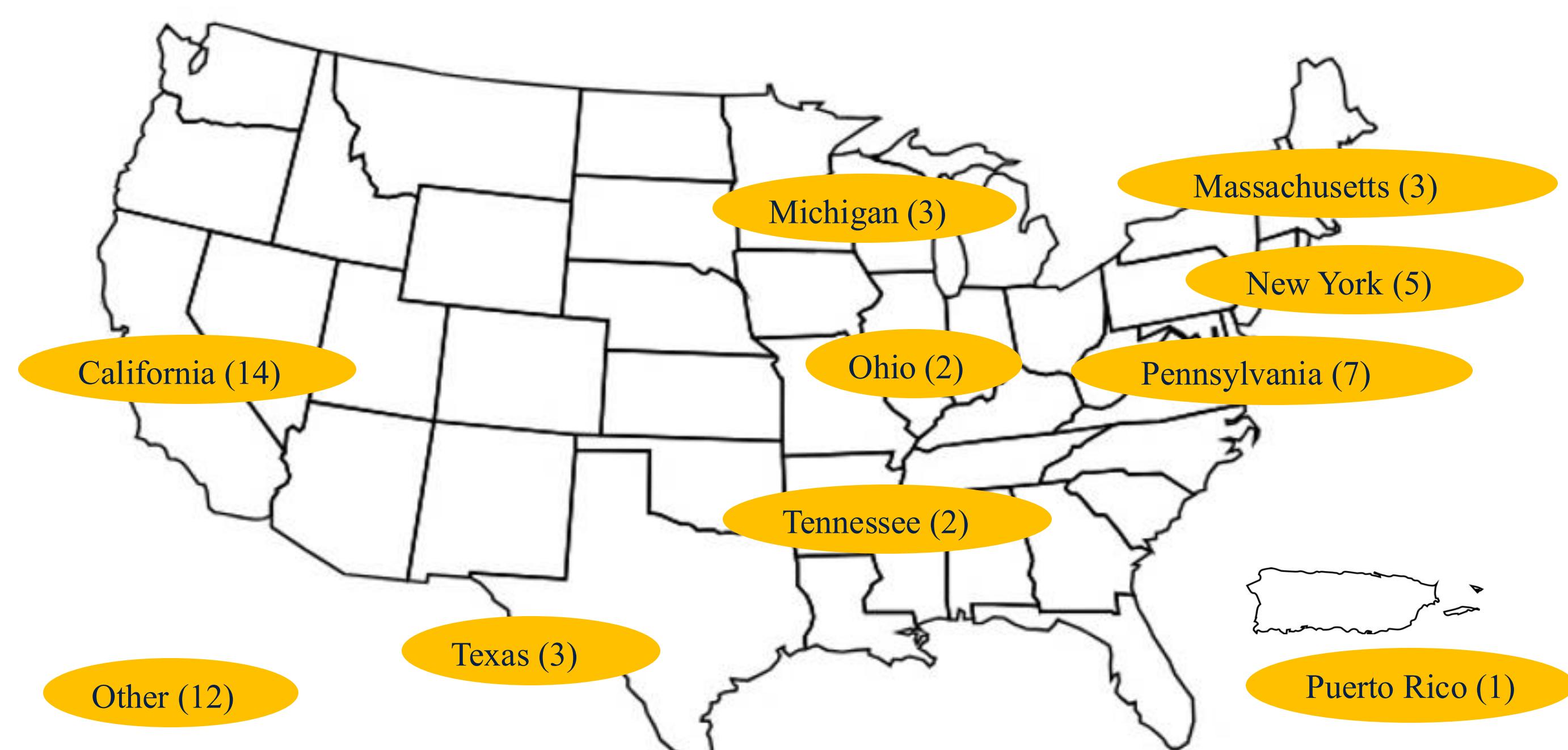


Figure 1. Geographic distribution of Otolaryngology residency applicants (N = 52).

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of Otolaryngology residency applicants.

Characteristic	N = 52
Application Year (N, %)	
2024 Cycle	33 (57.9)
2023 Cycle	24 (42.1)
Age, years	Mean 28.7 (SD 2.4, range 25–41)
Gender Identity (N, %)	
Women	30 (52.6)
Men	23 (44.2)
Transgender / Prefer not to disclose	2 (3.8)
Gap Years	
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 (%)
Motivations for Engagement	
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)
Influential Factors in Residency Selection	
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)
Prior Global Health Experiences	
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)

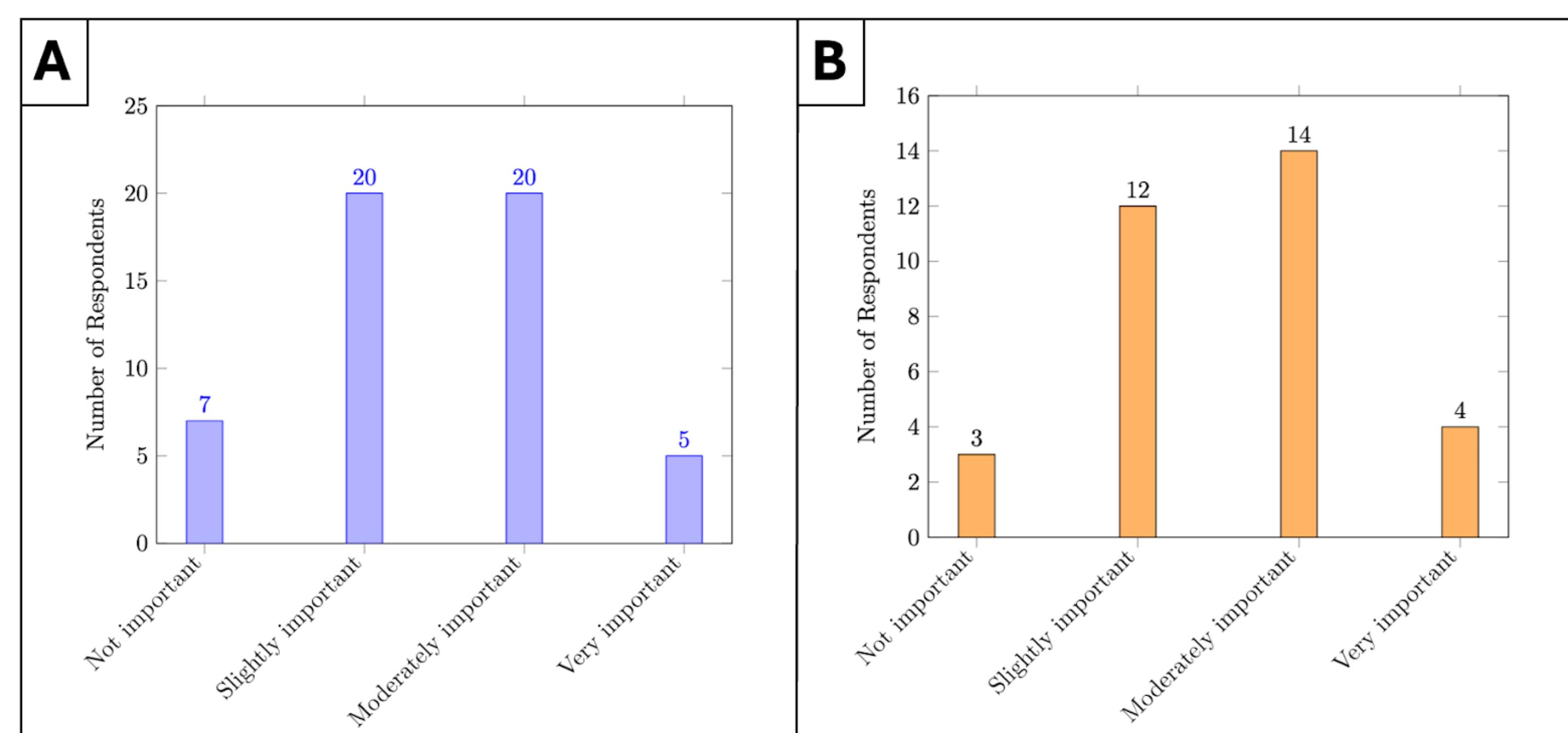


Figure 2. (A) Importance of global health opportunities in residency program selection among Otolaryngology residency applicants (N = 52). (B) Importance of global health opportunities in residency program selection among respondents with previous global health experience (N = 33).

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