

# Global Cardiothoracic Surgery: A Survey of Thoracic Surgery Trainee Interests and Barriers

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## Background:

- Over 5 billion people lack access to cardiac surgical care, with the greatest disparities in LMIC
- Despite high interest in global surgery across specialties, participation in global cardiac surgical care remains low.
- No studies have quantified cardiothoracic surgeons' perspectives on global surgery, leaving gaps in understanding the barriers to engagement.

## Research Objectives:

- Evaluate the level of interest among CT surgery trainees in global surgery and their awareness of opportunities.
- Investigate the key obstacles preventing trainees from engaging in global cardiac surgery initiatives

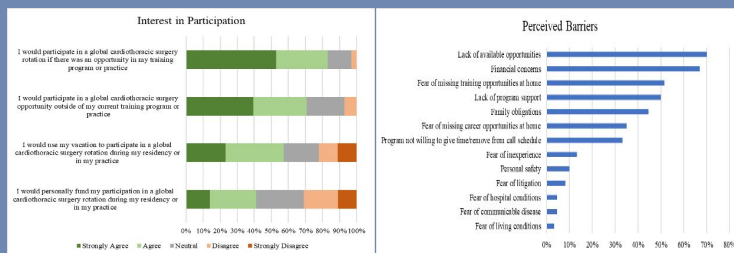
## Methods:



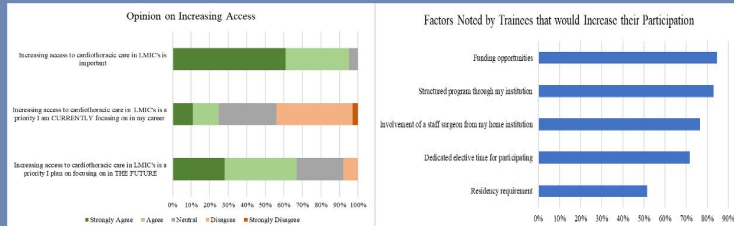
X2 in 2021 and 2022

## Results:

- 73 cardiothoracic surgical trainees responded to our survey.
- 95.3% of respondents considered increasing cardiothoracic surgical access as important
- 67.2% indicated this to be a future career priority.



- 82.8% would participate if opportunities were available through their home institution.
- Lack of opportunities (70.0%) and finances (66.7%) were the primary barriers to participation.
- Funding (85%) and institutional support (83.3%) were the most significant incentives to increase involvement.



## Conclusion:

- Cardiothoracic trainees show strong interest in global cardiac surgery, with many envisioning it as part of their future careers.
- Despite this interest, actual participation remains low due to significant barriers, particularly limited access and financial constraints.
- Efforts to improve awareness and expand funding opportunities are essential to support trainee involvement.
- Enhancing trainee participation in global surgery can help advance both individual career goals and the global effort to improve access to cardiac surgical care.

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