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The Perceived Impact of Prior Research Experience in Global Health on Residency Choice and Career Decisions among U. S. Interns

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Background:

As fourth-year medical students explore residency program options, many are choosing programs that will support their interest in global health activities. What is not known is the relationship between types of previous experiences and residency choice, as well as intended career trajectory.

Objective:

The aim of this study was to compare the nature of previous global health experiences (i.e. research-based vs. non-research based) on the selection of residency programs and anticipated careers in the entering intern class across 14 specialties at a single institution.

Methods:

- All incoming interns at the University of Michigan are required to participate in a 154-item, web-based survey to assess a wide variety of issues and characteristics.

- Questions pertaining to prior activities in global health (volunteer activities, clinical rotations, research)

- Decisions regarding residency selection and future plans

- Responses were tabulated in excel and analyzed using SPSS statistical software.

Results:

The survey response rate was 98% (177/181)

- 38% (68/171) reported prior participation in a global health activity

- 9.1% (16/178) in international research
- 16.8% (30/178) in clinical rotations
- 24.7% (44/178) in volunteer work

- 81% of those with international research experiences felt that global health offerings were important in their choice of residency programs.

- 87.5 % (14/16) of those who participated in international research activities hoped to participate in global health activities during residency.

Figure 2: How likely are you to engage in global health work in your future career?

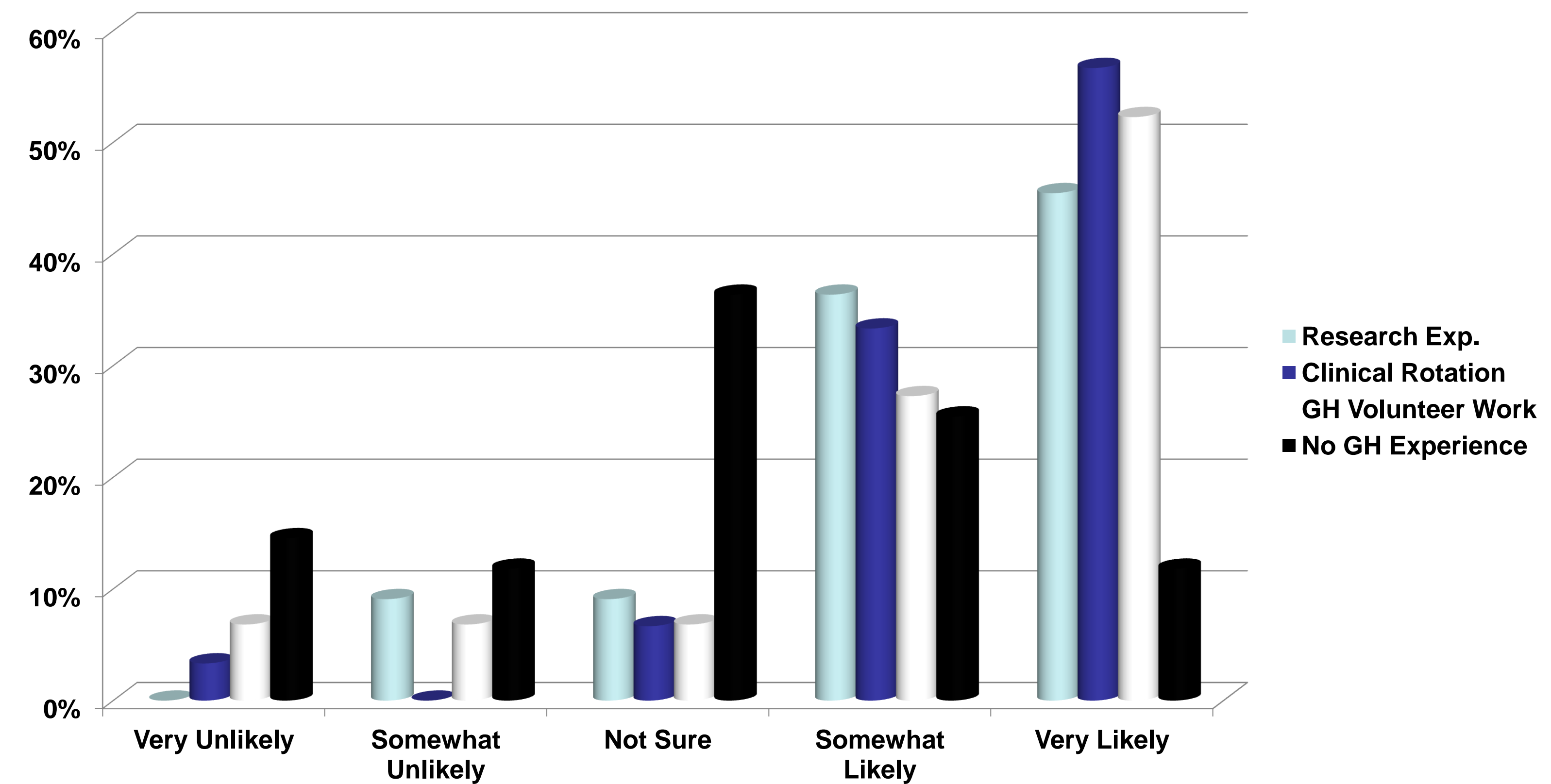
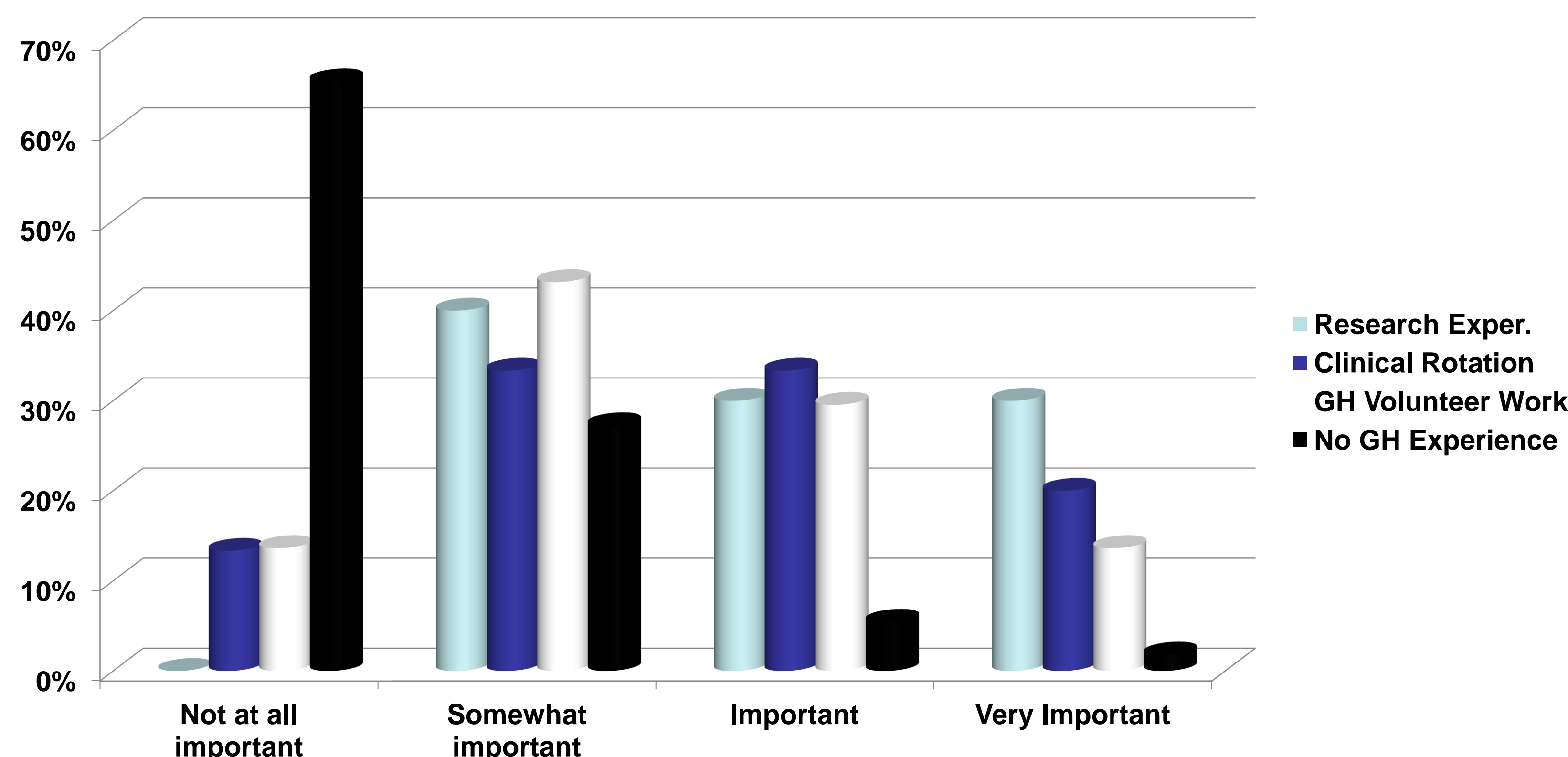


Figure 1: How important were global health offerings in your choice of residency?



Conclusions:

Global Educational Programs at North American Medical Schools may want to focus on International Research as a viable educational option for medical students.

Students who engaged in international research activities were very interested in pursuing global opportunities in the future

Program directors and advisors who have limited resources may want to be more intentional with access to global health experiences for those applicants with prior research experiences in global health.

For additional information please contact:

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