



From a distance it is difficult to comment on the effect of the loss of specialists and senior specialists on the training of medical students and registrars. However, a UK medical student has stated that is an embarrassment for medical educators in South Africa.⁷

We hope that the South African public supports their doctors, and particularly those who train others. The reputation of South African-trained doctors around the world is outstanding, owing to the excellent training received from the doctors who committed themselves to public service. It is sad that this service is not adequately compensated or acknowledged by the government and the people of South Africa. Those working overseas will be paid better, enjoy better benefits and have a better quality of work life with far superior

support for teaching and research than classmates who choose to stay behind. We take our hats off to those who do decide to stay, as they have chosen to teach and train future South African doctors who it is hoped will be as well qualified as the previous generations. Cynically, the government may not want good doctors, in order to prevent those trained in South Africa from leaving. If that is the case every South African will have difficulty accessing decent health care in the future. It is unlikely that those who have established careers out of South Africa will return, but our plea is for South Africa to make staying an attractive and possible career choice for South African doctors. In addition, the possibility of returning would become reality if we knew that working conditions and pay were reasonable and fair.

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