

THE HCA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

By: Susan Smith, Trustee

What is the HCA Foundation?

The HCA International Foundation was set up in 2005 to provide Travelling Scholarships for doctors, with the first awards being made in 2006. Since that first round of applications, the Foundation has received 375 applications and awarded 101 Travelling Scholarships, disbursing over £500,000.

Chairman of the Trustees is Mike Neeb, CEO and President of HCA International. The Trustees are John Bugos, Chief Financial Officer HCA; Mr Geoffrey Glazer, General Surgeon; Dr Michael Harding, GP; Jasy Loyal, Executive Director/VP of Legal Services HCA; and Susan Smith, Healthcare Consultant.

The Foundation was formed with the aim of being a vehicle that would meet the objective of experienced clinicians delivering high-quality healthcare in the communities that they serve.

Supporting doctors to widen their experience

Applications are invited from across the UK and are open to all qualified doctors working here, and who are either at the end of their training periods and close to gaining a consultant post, or have already gained a consultant post within the last ten years. The scholarships support doctors to travel abroad

to gain experience in their chosen specialty that is not readily available in the UK.

Candidates apply from all over the UK and from a wide variety of specialties. Whilst surgical specialties have seen a greater number of applications in the past, we now see applications from different specialties as interventional medicine has moved to the forefront. The most frequently requested destinations are Australia and North America, but a number of Asian destinations feature regularly, as do recognised major centres of excellence in countries such as South Africa, Sweden, France and Germany.

The amount requested and finally agreed upon may range from £1,000 to a maximum of £20,000 (available in limited cases). Generally, scholarships are awarded to candidates who may have secured a fellowship in their department of choice and will be away on a 12-month visit. All candidates are requested to provide a report following their return to the UK, highlighting their learning experience and the value that they believe they can bring back to the care of their patients in the UK. Almost without exception, the candidates have become consultants in their speciality in UK hospitals.

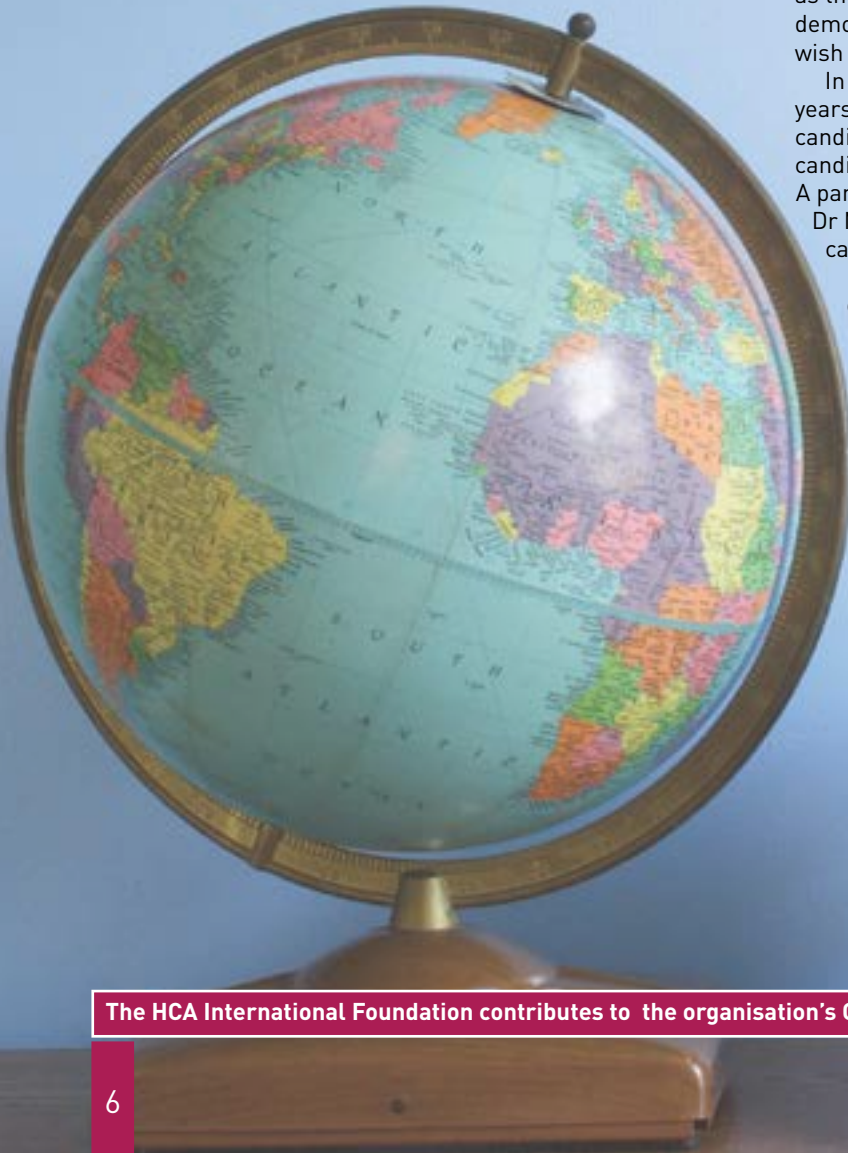
Standards were very high in 2014

A detailed report on the activities of the Foundation is currently being prepared for submission for publication, as the overall value of the awards becomes clearer and demonstrates a number of important points that the Trustees wish to be shared with the medical community.

In 2014, the Trustees made a departure from previous years as the standard of applications was so high, and 10 candidates were offered smaller grants in addition to the 11 candidates who were granted sums from £2,000 to £12,000. A panel of HCA Foundation Trustees – Mr Geoffrey Glazer, Dr Michael Harding and Susan Smith – interviewed these candidates.

The specialties ranged from neurosurgery and orthopaedics to ophthalmology and head and neck surgery. The doctors will be travelling to European centres of excellence as well as international destinations such as Canada, Taiwan and Australia.

For more information, please visit www.hcainternationalfoundation.co.uk



The HCA International Foundation contributes to the organisation's Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives.