

# Are Physicians Ready to Take up Leadership Roles in Planetary Health?



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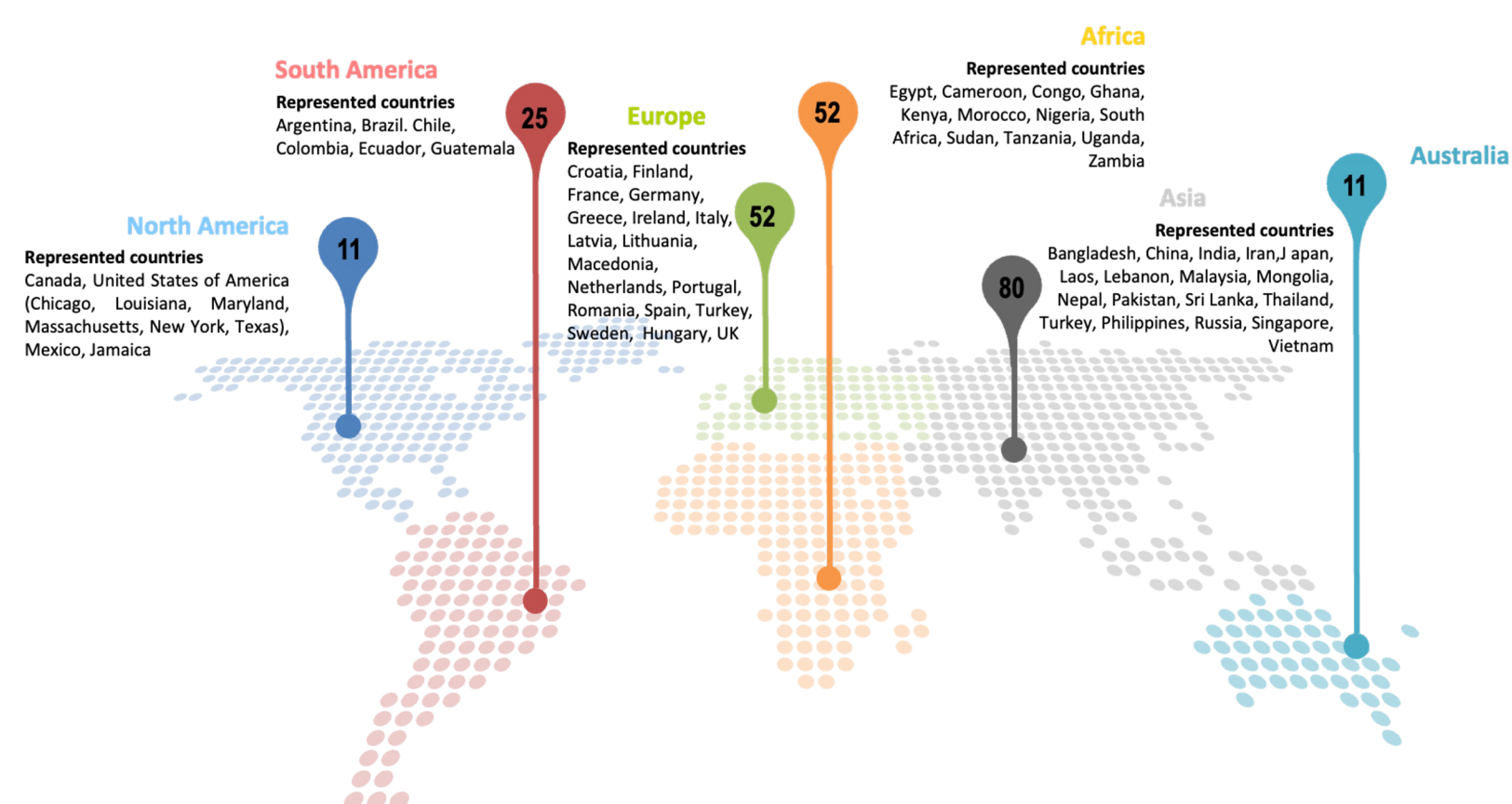
Suraj Bhattarai<sup>1,2</sup>; Omary Chillo<sup>3</sup>; Biljana Gjoneska<sup>4</sup>; Dipendra Khatiwada<sup>5</sup>; Jaifred Christian F. Lopez<sup>6</sup>; Atiya Mosam<sup>7</sup>; Juan Carlos Núñez Enríquez<sup>8</sup>; Duha Shellah<sup>9</sup>; Nora Grasselli<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Global Health Research & Medical Interventions for Development, Nepal; <sup>2</sup>London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, UK; <sup>3</sup>Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, Tanzania; <sup>4</sup>Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts, North Macedonia; <sup>5</sup>College of Medical Sciences, Nepal; <sup>6</sup>Duke University, USA; <sup>7</sup>Mayibuye Health and University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa; <sup>8</sup>UMAE Hospital de Pediatría CMN Siglo XXI, IMSS, Mexico; <sup>9</sup>Palestine Academy for Science & Technology, Palestine; <sup>10</sup>European School of Management and Technology, Germany.

## INTRODUCTION

- Physicians' role is primarily thought to provide patient care.
- They also contribute to improve healthcare systems & health indicators.<sup>a</sup>
- However, their role in planetary health has not been established nor defined yet.
- Young Physician Leaders Programme (YPL) is a flagship training programme of the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) – the parent academy of 149 national science academies worldwide.<sup>b</sup>
- IAP has a mission to “foster the next generation of research and science policy leaders” by strengthening critical capacities for leadership.<sup>b</sup>

### Young Physician Leaders (YPL) at a glance



- YPL programme is running since 2011.
- It has 21 new members and 231 Alumni across 5 continents.
- Each year, national academies send their nominations to IAP and its expert medical panel selects the new cohort (~20 members).
- World Health Summit, M8 Alliance and European School of Management and Technology (ESMT) are main programme partners, among others.

## OBJECTIVE

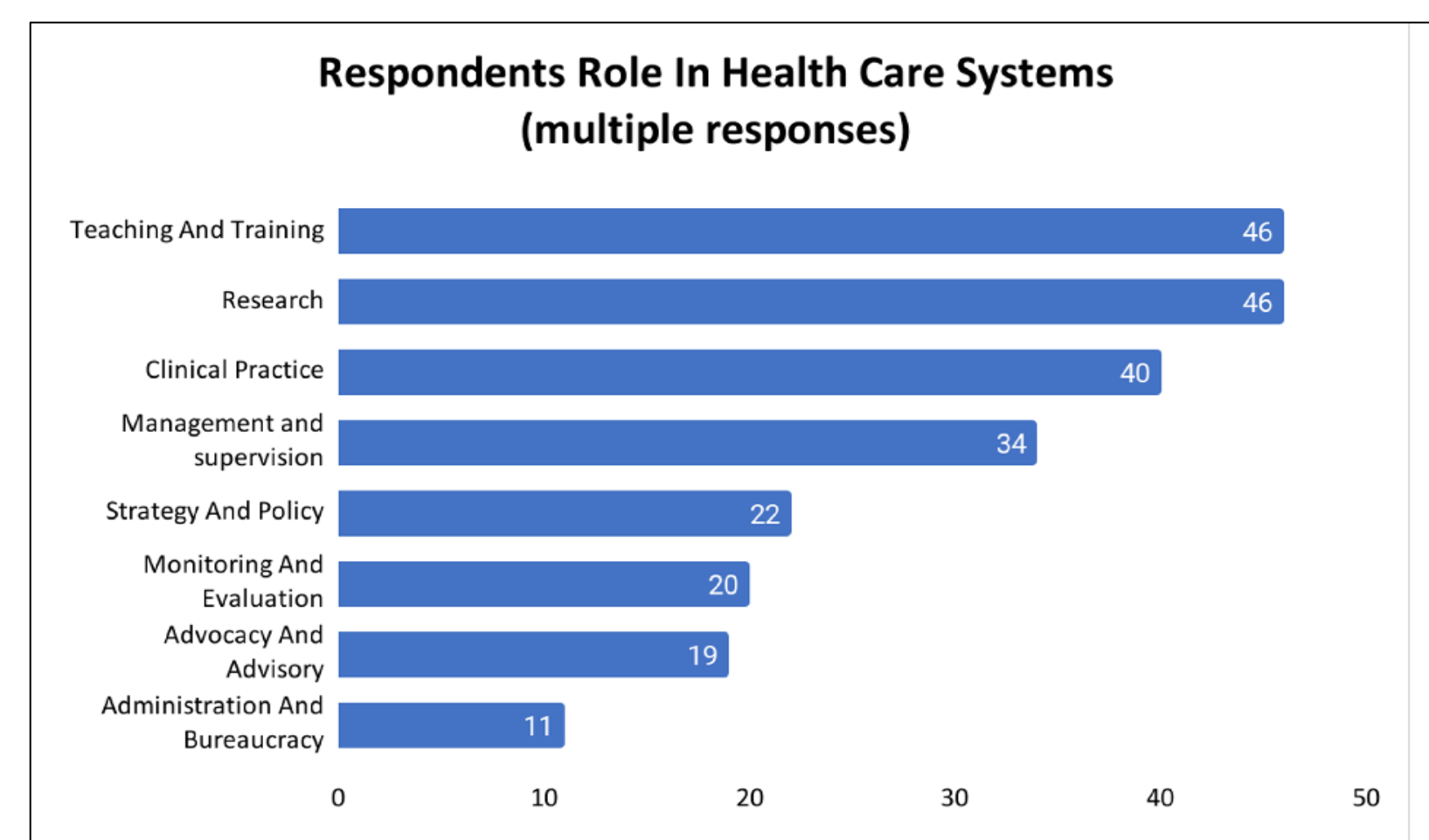
To explore the engagement of YPL alumni in health sector in the context of emerging global discourse on planetary health.

## METHODS

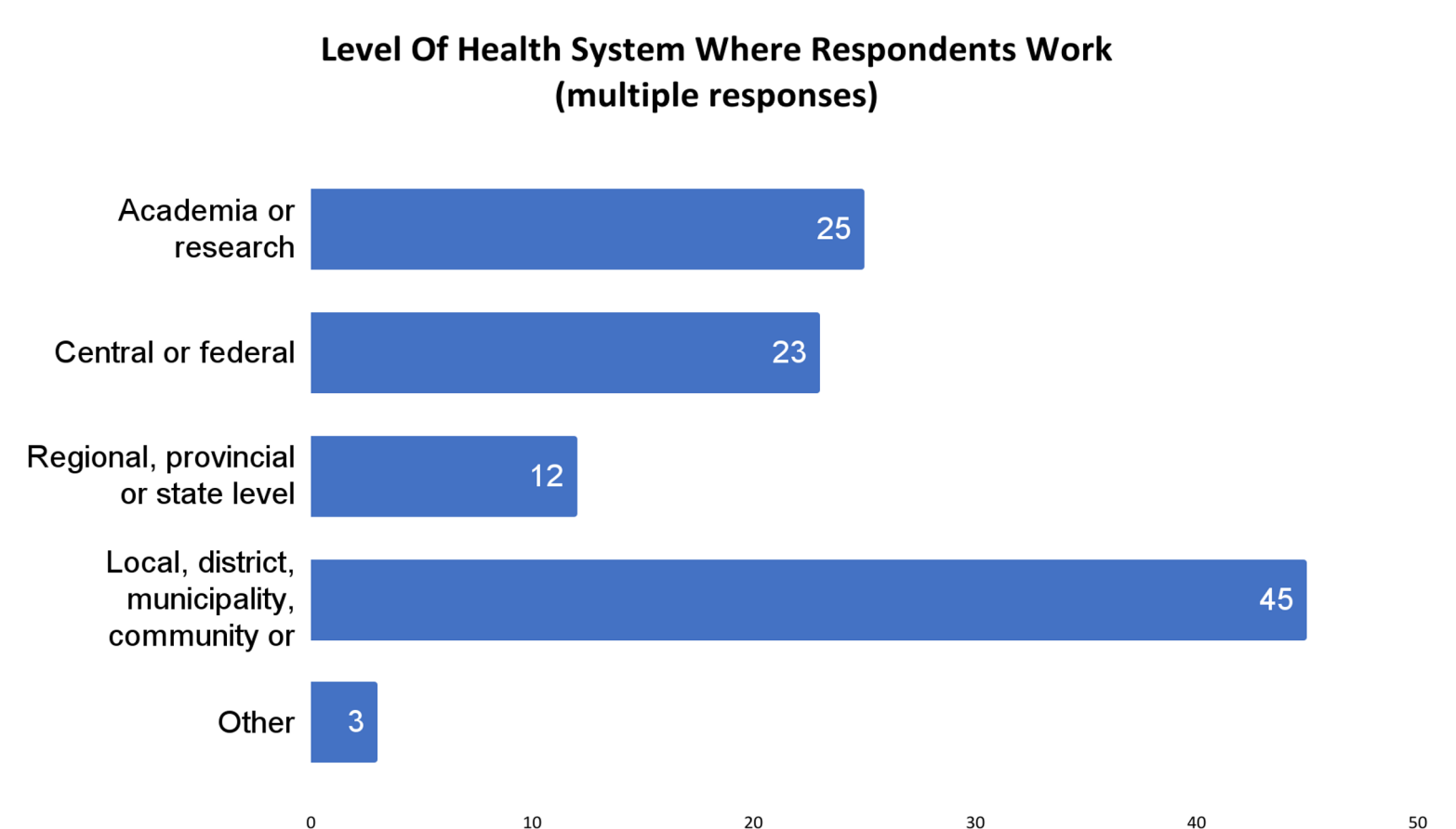
- A semi-structured questionnaire was developed based on literature review and distributed electronically to the 10-year YPL cohorts (2011-2022), with assistance from the IAP Secretariat.
- The 8-member YPL Alumni Steering Committee coordinated the study, in collaboration with the ESMT.
- EMST ethics committee provided ethical clearance to the survey.
- Descriptive statistics was used to analyse the data.

## RESULTS

- Out of 235 physicians approached, 77 (33%) completed the survey.
- 51% were female. Majority (73%) represented LMICs.
- 52% of the respondents were engaged in clinical practice, 60% in research, 29% in strategic and policymaking roles, 14% in bureaucracy.



- While 30% of the respondents worked from central or federal level, the majority (58%) worked from local level (district or community facilities).



## CONCLUSIONS

- Physicians are extending their work area beyond curative medicine, embracing upstream approaches to impact population health.
- Therefore, it is important to acknowledge physicians as key stakeholders of planetary health and engage them in global initiatives.

## DISCUSSION

- Physicians' community represent highly educated and respected professionals and apt science communicators, so they could be the most suitable messengers/ debaters/ negotiators for planetary health.<sup>c</sup>
- Next generation physicians should be educated to recognize planetary health as the foundation for any efforts to improve human health.<sup>d</sup>

## REFERENCES

- <sup>a</sup>Institute of Medicine (US) Division of Health Sciences Policy. Medical Education and Societal Needs: A Planning Report for the Health Professions. National Academies Press (US); 1983. Chapter 4, The Physicians' Role in a Changing Health Care System.
- <sup>b</sup>The InterAcademy Partnership. [www.interacademies.org](http://www.interacademies.org)
- <sup>c</sup>Myers SS, Potter T, Wagner J and Xie M. Clinicians for Planetary Health. One Earth; 2022.
- <sup>d</sup>Moser AM, Stigler FL and Haditsch B. Physicians' responsibility for planetary health. The Lancet Planetary Health; 2017.