Background They are overseas trained doctors. In 2013 GMC declared that 37% of medical workforce in the UK are overseas trained. GOSH has the highest number of overseas trainee in the UK. In June 2020 we had 116 IMGs. Key challenges faced while settling are knowing the NHS, Governance, communication skills and cultural expectation in the UK. PGME at GOSH works with IMGs to overcome these challenges.

The Pandemic Due to COVID 19 outbreak, IMGs faced many new challenges. With most IMG’s living away from their families, major concerns during the pandemic were sickness, social support, personal transport, accommodation, health of family members back home, travel restrictions, financial difficulty, visa renewal and many more. A targeted approach was devised to resolve the day by day emerging unique challenges. IMG support team made assessment of situation at the start of pandemic and existing IMG specific social media platforms were utilized in gathering information and providing customized support. Early recognition of IMGs as vulnerable group and establishing good communication channel by including IMG members in bronze meetings were the major steps that helped us to provide essential support.

Support GOSH provided - arranging accommodation for isolation, care during sickness, supply of food, emotional support for the sick ones, nursery support letters, staff testing, liaison with HR and pensions, liaising with home department to resolve visa renewal issues, helping in visa extension, training and support to the new recruits, raising the concerns to medical bodies like RCPCH and BMA.

Conclusion It was possible to address these issues in a timely fashion as GOSH had a pre-existing robust IMG support team. Ongoing challenges like travel to see family abroad, quarantines in both countries, impact on training still remains to be addressed and requires continued work towards improving the stay of IMG in the UK.