“It’s a Small World”: Developing a Global Health Elective in a Family Medicine Residency Program

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Introduction

As our world becomes smaller with the growth of technology, travel and globalization, the plights of others comes to the forefront. This has resulted in more family medicine residents and potential residents desiring an experience in global or international medicine. These experiences have shown to actually improve USMLE scores¹ and heighten awareness of public health, cost containment and patient education.²
Program Goals

• To provide high-quality global health training for Family Medicine residents
• To provide knowledge of health disparities and the causes including medical, social, economic and environmental factors
• To develop competence in an alternative cross-cultural clinical experience
• To develop leadership skills
Why:

We recognized the importance of serving the disadvantaged both in the United States and abroad. This includes a solid knowledge base of local diseases and culture, the skills to provide medical care, education and social support and the attitudes to be open, professional and caring for a diverse population.
When:

• Began to plan for program at SJMLH in July, 2010
• First trip to Haiti: September, 2010
• Second trip to Guatemala: March, 2011
• Third trip to Mali: December 2011
• Fourth trip to Haiti: March, 2012
• First SMMH Trip to Nicaragua: May 2014
Our Curriculum

• Required for all residents:
  – **Didactics** to include Wednesday lectures and journal clubs in an 18 month rotation
    • Overview of global health and the burden of disease
    • Health indicators and their use and limitation
    • Institutions and organizations involved in global health including policy
    • Environmental health including water issues, sanitation issues and man-made and natural disasters
    • Global health ethics and professionalism
    • Cultural, social and behavioral determinants of health
    • Social justice and global health including human rights
Specific diseases including but not limited to:
- malaria
- ebola
- tuberculosis including MDR
- HIV
- measles/mumps
- cholera and parasitic diseases
- nutrition
- maternal and child health

Hands-on to include laboratory, radiology and clinical exam skills
– **Required for residents interested in a field elective** (this is limited to a determined number of residents in good standing each year):

– **Group discussions** to include didactics and discussion
  
  • Staying healthy during global health field experience
  
  • Location specific issues
– Pre-deployment meetings

• Expectations
• Personal goals of each team member
• Paper work, necessary items to bring and preparing to depart
– **On-Elective meetings**
  * Daily debriefing meetings after clinic hours

– **Return meeting**
  * Debriefing one week after return
- **Scholarly activities**
  - Presentation to program within two months and
  - Poster presentations of interesting cases seen for Research Forum and/or
  - Scholarly article for publication
– **Experiences at local free clinics**

One Saturday per month working at a free clinic (Hope Clinic).
Supervision

• All experiences are supervised by FMC physician faculty.
• Every effort is made to provide an opportunity for all residents in good standing (no probation, delinquent charting, and/or learning plan)
• Counted as elective time.
Evaluation

• Each resident is evaluated by their faculty advisor
• This will include the aspects of the Global Health Curriculum that is taught for all residents.
• All residents who have a global field experience are evaluated based on the core competencies by the physician faculty on site and the behavioral medicine faculty supervising the curriculum.
• Residents will evaluate their experience using the Global Experience Evaluation on New Innovations.
• Each resident is responsible for the cost of personal items including:
  – Travel immunizations
  – Valid passport
  – Foods not included in the trip package (airport, sightseeing)
  – Personal souvenirs
  – Transportation to airport not included in trip package
Risks

• Inherent risk of any trip
• Safety on trip
• Registered with the Department of State
Challenges

- Legalities/Hospital Concerns
- Finances
Pilot Trip to Haiti

• Team included:
  – Two physician faculty
  – A behavioral science faculty
  – A nurse
  – Four residents
Faces of Haiti
The First Elective Trip to Guatemala

- Team Included:
  - One physician faculty
  - One behavioral science faculty
  - Two support people
  - Three residents
Faces of Guatemala
Trip to Mali, West Africa

• Team Included:
  – One Resident
  – One Physician faculty
  – Numerous support staff
Trip to Rural Haiti

• Team Included
  – Four Residents
  – One physician faculty
  – One behavioral science faculty
Recent Trip to Nicaragua
First St. Mary Mercy Trip

• Team Included:
  – One Physician faculty
  – Four Family Medicine Residents
REMARKABLE MEDICINE.
REMARKABLE CARE.