EMORY’S GLOBAL HEALTH DISTINCTIONS PROGRAM: A MODEL FOR GLOBAL HEALTH IN GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

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Outline

• Discuss global health experiences in undergraduate and graduate medical education

• Introduce Emory’s Global Health Distinctions Program

• Illustrate the impact of global health experiences on future medical careers

• Discuss opportunities for careers in global health
Global Health in Undergraduate Medical Education

Timeline:

1950’s—start of international health electives in US medical schools

1969—JAMA article showed that 78% of first year medical students were interested in working abroad at some point in their medical careers

2000—AAMC collected data about medical students who participated in international electives at some point in medical school\(^1\):

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
6.2\% \ (1984) & \rightarrow & 15.3\% \ (1989) & \rightarrow & 38.6\% \ (2000)
\end{array}
\]

Global Health in Undergraduate Medical Education

- Medical students are highly interested in global health
  - A study in the Journal of Medical Education showed that 50% of prospective residents said that international health opportunities influenced their decision to attend that particular medical school\(^2\)

- Benefits in undergraduate medical education
  - Increased scores of USMLE board exams in the preventive medicine/public health sections\(^3\)
  - A 1999 study in the American Journal of Tropical Medicine showed that 78% of students who participated in an international health elective had an increased awareness of cost issues and cost barriers in patient care\(^3\)
  - Increased utility in the importance of the history and physical exam\(^4\)

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\(^2\)Waddell et al. “Effectiveness of an international health elective as measured by NBME Part II.” Journal of Medical Education. 1976.
Global Health in Undergraduate Medical Education

- Global health experiences influence medical career decisions:
  - A study from Tulane University showed that medical students who participate in an international health elective are more likely to practice in an underserved area in the US\(^5\)
  - Students who participate in international health electives score higher on the “Cultural Self-Efficacy Scale” suggesting an increase in cultural competency\(^6\)
  - Several studies have shown students who participate in international health electives are more likely to choose careers in primary care specialties

Global Health in Graduate Medical Education

• Growing interest in global health opportunities have extended into graduate medical education

• Many residency programs have established global health experiences with opportunities that span from one month electives to an additional year of residency and include clinical experiences, scholarly projects, additional degrees (MPH)

• Global health tracts exist in residency programs in Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Surgery, Psychiatry, Emergency Medicine, and Pediatrics

• Global health fellowships offered through Internal Medicine as well

• Most programs also focus on underserved populations in the US

Impact of Global Health Experience

- Residency applications (ERAS)
  - Interesting, well rounded students
  - Additional recognition on CV (scholarships, awards, graduating honors)
- Scholarly activities (presentations, publications)
- Joint degrees (MD/MPH)
- Can direct career choices as well as interest in specific training programs
Impact of Global Health Experience

- Graduate medical education benefits are similar
  - Increased exposure to different pathology and clinical presentations\(^7\)
  - Increased understanding of working with limited resources\(^7\)
  - Improvement in surgical or clinical skills\(^7\)
  - Increased interactions with and understanding of different cultures\(^7\)
  - Resident participants were more likely to believe that US physicians underused their physical exam and history taking skills\(^8\)
  - Positive influence on their clinical diagnostic skills\(^8\)


Emory’s Internal Medicine
Global Health Distinctions Program
Global Health Distinctions Program

Background Information:

- Global Health Initiative started in 2007
- Began as a one month international health elective
- Residents selected by competitive application
  - Focus on how an applicant plans to incorporate the global health experience into their future career
- Funding initially supported by donations to the residency program (alumni, foundations)
Global Health Distinctions Program

Program Development:

- 2010: Expanded from Initiative → Global Health Distinctions Program
  - Year long curriculum and a one month international global health elective

- 2013: Emory University School of Medicine established the Global Health Residency Scholars Program
  - Opportunities for collaboration among residents and fellows throughout the School of Medicine

- 2014: Distinctions Program created a new domestic site with Indian Health Services in Tuba City, Arizona
Global Health Distinctions Program

Current Program:

• Fifth year of the Global Health Distinctions Program
• Application process begins near end of PGY 1 year
• Curriculum begins in the winter of PGY 2 year and continues for 18 months
• Global Health experiences occur during 2 elective months
  • PGY 2 year: Indian Health Services in Tuba City, Arizona
  • PGY 3 year: International site
Global Health Distinctions Program

Republic of Georgia

Honduras

Ethiopia
Global Health Distinctions Program

Curriculum:
- Curriculum based in Education, Service, Scholarship
Global Health Distinctions Program

Curriculum:

• PGY 2 year: Self-directed learning

• During PGY 3 year, group meetings each month for didactic session
  • Introduction to Global Health: Definition
  • Orientation to Global Health program
  • Global Health cases
  • Journal Club(s)
  • Clinical Updates
  • Travel and Safety
Global Health Distinctions Program

Curriculum:

• Collaborative educational efforts
  • Global Health Residency Scholars Program
• Scholars from across departments in the School of Medicine
  • Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Pediatrics, Surgery, Psychiatry, Emergency Medicine, Radiology, Dermatology, Ophthalmology, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Obstetrics and Gynecology
Global Health Distinctions Program

Ethical Challenges in Short-Term Global Health Training

This course consists of a series of ten cases to introduce trainees and others involved in global health research and service to ethical issues that may arise during short-term training experiences abroad.

Each is adapted from an actual scenario. Names, locales and other details have been changed to protect privacy and help meet learning objectives. For more information about the case series, click here.

We recommend that you complete the cases in order. You can navigate the site using the navigation bar at left and the "Next" button on each page.

Following each case, we ask you to complete 5 brief survey questions. Doing so will allow you to print a Certificate of Completion for that case.

Course Objectives
1. Demonstrate increased awareness of ethical issues involved in short-term global health programs abroad;
2. Identify strategies for dealing with these ethical issues as they arise;
3. Display increased confidence in their ability to navigate these issues; and
4. Report anticipated and actual changes in their behavior during their training program abroad.

Before beginning this course, tell us a little about yourself.

To begin the first case, click its title at left or here.
Ethics in Global Health

• Cultural competency
• Shifting resources
• Personal safety
• Clinical questions exceeding level of training
• Ensuring sustainable and appropriate benefits to the host country/institution
• Recognizing burdens to the host
Global Health Distinctions Program

Curriculum:

• Service--Residents rotate through the Refugee Clinic at Grady Memorial Hospital during their ambulatory month
  • Focus on use of interpretative services during an outpatient visit
  • Identify how cultural differences can influence a patient’s health as well as a patient’s acceptance of westernized medical care
  • Opportunities for patient education
Global Health Distinctions Program

Curriculum:

- Scholarship
Prevalence and Incidence of Latent Tuberculosis Infection in Georgian Healthcare Workers

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Effects of sunlight and diet on vitamin D status of pulmonary tuberculosis patients in Tbilisi, Georgia


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Global Health Distinctions Program

Innovations: Medical education
Impact of Global Health Experience

- Career decisions
  - Global Health Distinctions Program: 45 residents to date including 2015 graduating class
    - Wide range of specialties including
      - Epidemic Intelligence Service (Centers for Disease Control)
      - Internal medicine subspecialties (Cardiology, Gastroenterology, Geriatrics, Endocrinology, Infectious Diseases, Sports Medicine)
    - Primary care
    - Hospitalists
    - Indian Health Services
Opportunities for Global Health Careers

• Epidemic Intelligence Service (Centers for Disease Control)
• Master’s of Science in Clinical Research—Global Health track
• Fogarty Global Health Fellowship
• USAID Global Health fellowships

Epidemic Intelligence Service

“CDC’s EIS officers are boots on the ground disease detectives, central to finding and stopping outbreaks quickly ... EIS officers are our first line of defense ... to prevent, detect, and respond to disease outbreaks. They are essential to protect global health security and keep Americans safe and healthy.”

From In praise of CDC’s heroic disease detectives’ by CDC Director, Tom Frieden, MD, MPH

VECD Fogarty Global Health Fellowships
A Consortium of Vanderbilt University, Emory University, Cornell University & Duke University
Opportunities for Global Health Careers

• Global Health Service Partnership
  • Collaboration between SEED Global Health (established by Vanessa Kerry, MD), the Peace Corps, and the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)
  • Established in 2012 to address the vast shortages of health professionals in many areas of the world
  • Goal is to increase clinical care capacity and strengthen health systems in resource-limited settings by training the next generation of local doctors and nurses
  • Partners US health professionals with local medical and nursing faculty to meet the teaching needs at developing institutions
Conclusion

• Global health education is increasing in both undergraduate and graduate medical education

• Opportunities for clinical experiences in resource limited environments are increasing for both medical students and residents

• Global health experiences have an impact on a trainee’s education as well as career path
“My experience with the Global Health Initiative was definitely the most meaningful thing that I was part of during my residency. Being in Ethiopia....made me feel like I was part of something much larger—a global community.”
Questions?

Global Health Distinction

Emory’s Internal Medicine Global Health Distinctions Program began in 2007, and since then, we have had approximately 40 residents participate in the program. Most residents reference this experience as the highlight of their residency. Residents who graduate with Distinctions in Global Health gain an appreciation for practicing medicine in a resource limited environment, and their participation allows them to feel part of a global community.

The application process begins in the end of the PGY 1 year. Five residents are selected each year. The curriculum begins during the PGY2 year with a series of internet-based self-learning modules from sites including the Global Health Education Consortium and US AID. During the PGY 3 year, the Global Health residents meet every month for an educational experience—didactics, journal club, case reports, clinical updates. As the service component of the curriculum, Global Health residents have the opportunity to participate in Grady’s Refugee Clinic during their ambulatory month.

2012 Global Health Distinctions Program Graduates

During one of their PGY 2 elective months, Global health residents have the opportunity to spend a month working at Indian Health Services in Tuba City, Arizona. Residents will gain experience in practicing clinical medicine in a resource...
Thank You!

- Feel free to contact me: dcosco@emory.edu