Clinical Elective Opportunities in Global Health

**Course Title:** IMEP 1710 - International Health Elective

**Course Director:** Tawanda Gumbo, MD

**Course Co-Director:** TBD – Faculty Mentor

**Summary:**
- Periods Offered: All
- Length of rotation: 4 weeks (minimum)
- Max number of students: Open
- Prerequisites: Completion of third-year curriculum
- Minimum contact hours: 30 per week

**Description:**
This rotation will serve as a clearinghouse for varied types of international health experiences to include formal clinical visiting clerkships or externships at an international university-affiliated program or similar experience under the guidance of a designated faculty member. This rotation will advance knowledge of global health issues through clinical service by facilitating a means for the student to:
1. Engage in preparation, participation, and reflection of an international health and medicine experience
2. Increase one’s cultural competency
3. Gain insight into health care disparities and the social determinants of health
4. Broaden clinical exposure and experience in the evaluation/management of diseases endemic in developing countries, but rarely encountered in the United States.

**Course Goals and Objectives:**
To provide students with practice-oriented learning opportunities related to international health.

**PATIENT CARE:**
- Teach students to gather accurate and essential information in a system without modern technological equipment.
- Enhance students’ ability to make diagnostic plans for patients in a system of limited technology and financial resources.
- Teach students to recognize acute diseases that are rare in the United States.
- Teach students to develop management options for treatment of diseases rare in the United States.
- Teach students to develop management options for treatment of diseases common in the United States but with limited resources.

**MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE:**
- Teach students about acute medical diseases in developing world countries.
- Enhance students’ ability to integrate and apply their basic science knowledge to these uncommon diseases.
• Expose students through reading and clinical experience to parasite infestations and infectious diseases not usually seen in the United States.

**PRACTICE-BASED LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENT:**
• Expose the students to the local patient population, helping them to observe how local health practices and superstition affect the patient.
• Demonstrate to students how to analyze and improve the quality of hospital and clinic practice in a developing country with limited technological and financial resources.

**INTERPERSONAL AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS:**
• Expose the student to the challenges of cross-cultural communication in a multilingual context.
• Guide students in forming healthy cross-cultural relationships.
• Teach students the practical and ethical challenges of interpretation services in a clinical setting.

**PROFESSIONALISM:**
• Demonstrate to the students a respect and compassion for each individual patient.
• Expose the students to the ethical dilemmas posed in an overseas clinic or hospital such as limited resources, needs of poor patients, a competitive local medical community, maintaining the ethos of the hospital or clinic practice.
• Demonstrate integrity in all aspects of medical practice.

**SYSTEMS-BASED PRACTICE:**
• Expose students to the various health care systems existent in the international medical community.
• Expose the student to specific ways in which the specific hospital or clinic experience relates to the health care community so far as consultants, referrals, and partnerships.
•Expose students to medical mission life and a possible career in global health.

**Means of Evaluation:**
• The student will be evaluated by their supervisor according to the attached university-approved International Senior Clinical Elective Student Evaluation Form.
• Grades will be Pass or Fail.

**Course Evaluation:**
An online course evaluation must be completed *within one month* of completing the elective.

**Requirements:**
All international medical experiences must meet the following minimum requirements:
• All MS4 international elective experiences must be a minimum of four (4) weeks.
• All trip proposals should demonstrate that the specified program will strive to accomplish the above mentioned course goals and objectives.
• Students must identify a physician mentor (at international site) who will agree to supervise the students’ progress throughout the program.
  o Students will submit the physician’s CV or Bio as well as completion of the Global Health Preceptor Form documenting agreement to provide on-site mentorship and direct supervision of the student.
• Students must complete a pre-trip orientation in person or on-line.
• Student must provide the Office of Global Health with all requested forms (including Release and Indemnification Agreement, Stipend Agreement, and proof of enrollment in International SOS) at least one month prior to travel.
  o All materials should be emailed to Bekah.Singthao@UTSouthwestern.edu
• Upon returning, all students must complete an experience survey and submit a 1-page reflection essay within one month of completing the experience.
  o The reflection essay should be submitted by email in the following format: Word (.doc or .docx), double spaced, and 11 point Times New Roman font. Please include your name and date in the header and save the document as “LastName_FirstName_CountryVisited” (example: Smith_John_Haiti.docx).
  o Reflection Essay should address at least one of the following topics:
    1. Discuss an example of cross-cultural differences that did (or could have) impeded patient care. How did this situation impact the patient/doctor relationship?
    2. Discuss a catalyst that helped you discover your personal weaknesses and limitations as a future physician.
    3. What level of patient care were you able to provide compared with what is generally considered acceptable for medical students in the United States? Discuss the differences in terms of the ethical practice of medical education and health care access.
    4. How were communication issues between you and patients resolved? Was the level of care you were able to provide affected by language limitations?
• Upon returning, all students must also give a short presentation on two (2) medical or public health cases encountered in the host country. Students will meet with the Course Director or mentor to discuss the presentation details.
• The International Senior Clinical Elective Student Evaluation Form (on-site preceptor evaluation) is due within one month of completing the experience.

Application Process:
Submit the following items by the applicable deadline (early submission may be required for countries appearing on the State Department Travel Warning List*).
1. A completed Application for Global Health Opportunities
   o Please note that students may be asked to submit additional supporting documents to provide the reviewing Committee with all the necessary information.
2. The CV or bio of the designated on-site supervising physician
3. A completed Global Health Preceptor Form
   o CVs and the Preceptor Form are not required for applications to one of the UTSW global partner sites (e.g. Bangalore, Cape Town, UPCH, and Sun Yat-sen).

All materials should be emailed to Bekah.Singthao@UTSouthwestern.edu

Applications will be evaluated and approved by the Global Health Student Advisory Committee.
• Features of prior successful applications include;
  o Completion of the Pre-clinical Global Health elective
  o Affiliation with formal UT Southwestern global partners
  o On-site supervision by UT Southwestern Faculty
  o Formal well-established programs with evidence of sustainability
  o Formal elective at a foreign medical school with a visiting medical student program
  o Proposal reviewed and endorsed by formal Faculty mentor
  o Evidence of sufficient interpreters or language competence
  o Safe environment

August 28, 2012
Students are encouraged to contact Bekah Singthao for consultation and assistance in the application process.

*Travel to Countries on the U.S. State Department Travel Warning List*

Travel Warnings are issued when long-term, protracted conditions that make a country dangerous or unstable lead the State Department to recommend that Americans avoid the risk of travel to that country. A Travel Warning is also issued when the U.S. Government's ability to assist American citizens is constrained due to the closure of an embassy or consulate or because of a drawdown of its staff. A list of these countries is available at:


Approval for travel to these countries on UT Southwestern sponsored or endorsed programs (with or without stipend funding) is not guaranteed and will require the submission of additional information and have a separate approval process. If you are planning travel to one of these countries you should submit your application at least three (3) months before your planned travel and at least 8 weeks before you plan to buy plane tickets. You should also be aware that the likelihood of approval is low.

**Deadlines:**
The deadlines for **IMEP 1710- International Health Elective** are:

- **November 15:** for all spring rotations
- **August 15:** for all fall rotations
- **April 15:** for summer rotations (Period 1)

Students will receive responses (and funding, if approved) within one month of the application deadline.
Stipends for Preclinical Opportunities in Global Health

**Stipends:**

Submitting an application for the IMEP 1710- International Health Elective will be considered a request for stipend support. All applications will be reviewed with funding provided to the most competitive proposals.

*Payment* – The stipend will be disbursed shortly after approval through the Office of the Registrar.

*Conditions* – Stipends will only be awarded to students who are enrolled for the current academic year. Students on an approved leave of absence are not eligible to receive a stipend. Should a student not complete the specified requirements, the stipend must be repaid in full. Students will sign an agreement to this effect.