Preclinical Opportunities in Global Health

**Course Title:** MED 1044 - Preclinical International Service Learning

**Course Director:** Tawanda Gumbo, MD

**Course Co-Director:** TBD – Faculty Mentor Chosen by Student

**Objectives:**
1. To engage in preparation, participation, and reflection of an international health and medicine experience.
2. To advance knowledge of global health issues through clinical and/or community service.
3. To increase one’s cultural competency.
4. To gain insight into health care disparities and the social determinants of health.

**Rationale:**
"Service-learning" is defined in the literature and LCME accreditation standards as a structured learning experience that combines community service with preparation and reflection. Students engaged in service-learning provide community service in response to community-identified concerns and learn about the context in which service is provided, the connection between their service and their academic coursework, and their roles as citizens and professionals.\(^1\) Medical students have become increasingly aware of the health care needs and disparities in lesser developed countries. Gassererud and colleagues describe international health and medicine as “the practice of medicine outside the practitioner’s culture that addresses the cultural, economical, political, and environmental factors that affect the health, health perceptions, and health-behavior of individuals and populations in diverse communities across the globe.”\(^2\) Participation in international health experiences outside of the curriculum is common during medical school. To maximize the educational and professional development imparted by these powerful experiences, it is important to provide a framework for students to reflect on their experience and its impact and include formal evaluation.\(^3\)

**Requirements:**
All international medical experiences must meet the following minimum requirements:
- Summer experiences less than (4) weeks are discouraged.
- Spring Break or Winter Break trips must spend a minimum of one (1) week on-location (excluding travel time).
- Students must identify a physician mentor (at international site) who has agreed to supervise the students’ progress throughout the program.
  - 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.
- All students must complete a pre-trip orientation in person or on-line.

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• Students 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.

Application Process:
Submit the following items at least two months before your anticipated departure date (three months for countries appearing on the State Department Travel Warning List*) for approval by the Global Health Student Advisory Committee.

1. A completed Application for Global Health Opportunities
   • Note: 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

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

Applications will be evaluated and approved by the course director of this elective along with the Global Health Student Advisory Committee.
• Features of prior successful applications include;
  o Enrollment in 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 Proposal reviewed and endorsed by formal Faculty mentor
  o Evidence of sufficient interpreters or language competence
  o Safe environment

Students are encouraged to contact Bekah Singthao for consultation and assistance in the application process

August 10, 2012
*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 or consider 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:

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html

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**.

**Student Evaluation:**
Grades will be pass/fail. The experience must be documented in some manner by the supervisor or agency at which the student rotated and all requirements completed by the prescribed deadlines.

**Course Evaluation:**
An online course evaluation of the course must be completed before transcript credit may be provided for this elective.

**Course Credit:**
While these electives do not receive academic credit, they will be recorded on the academic transcript. A detailed description of the criteria for pre-clinical electives in global health is provided on subsequent pages and also on the web curriculum site.

**Deadlines:**

The deadlines for MED 1044 - **Preclinical International Service Learning** are:

- **January 15**: for all spring break trips
- **April 15**: for all summer trips
- **October 15**: for all winter break trips

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 **MED 1044 - Preclinical International Service Learning** 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.