

SCHOLARLY CONCENTRATION: INTERNATIONAL MEDICINE



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What is the International Medicine Scholarly Concentration?

An interdisciplinary program designed to advance students' knowledge of international health and geographical and cultural diversity so that their clinical skills and research acumen become global tools when practicing medicine.

At a Glance



An Enhanced Education Potential Student Participants

Students desiring a global perspective of illness and health and an interest in an international research, clinical rotation or field experience are encouraged to apply.

Prerequisites

Students must be in good academic standing and have an interest in learning about international health issues, and be willing to commit time to course responsibilities at USF and/or abroad.

Program Activities

Over four years, students will participate in a minimum of 180 hours of scholarly interaction through mandatory and elective activities, to include monthly meetings, field experiences, research projects, and seminars. Each activity will be assigned a number of contact hours depending upon the quality of the work. Students are encouraged to avail themselves of all opportunities to broaden their experience in International Medicine.

Upon completion of the Scholarly Concentration in International Medicine, students will be able to:

- Evaluate the global impact of infectious diseases, trauma, metabolic and chronic illnesses on health outcomes including that of women and children through an in-depth understanding of the factors that influence their epidemiology.
- Diagnose acute and chronic diseases of global importance including heart disease, asthma, diabetes, cancer and trauma-related illnesses, and developing world killers such as malaria, TB and HIV.
- Analyze the causes of global health inequities and their effect on health outcomes of individuals and populations in developing countries
- Assess the strengths and weaknesses of health care systems in both developed and resource-constrained nations.
- Develop fundamental research skills through active participation in an international research or healthcare intervention.
- Acquire skills in time management, critical literature review, clinical evaluation and leadership development.

INTERNATIONAL MEDICINE: A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES



In Their Words: Stories from our Students

ZIMBABWE

"I spent a month in southern Zimbabwe working with a group of rural mothers through the SC Summer Stipend. I lived at a Catholic convent with two sisters, and spent my time teaching nutrition classes as well as production of a homemade nutritional supplement for malnourished children to a team of interested mothers. The program was entitled "Mothers for Mutare" and the three weeks of classes were intended to familiarize the students with the basics of nutrition, the process for home production of a high-calorie supplement similar to PlumpyNut, and recognition of signs of malnutrition in children as well as evaluation of those children receiving the supplement. Overall, the project was a great success and the women really enjoyed the program. They were all excited to teach what they had learned to other women in the community."

- Shawna Foley, MSII

BANGLADESH

"I traveled to Bangladesh hoping to learn about patient knowledge, attitudes and current practices towards heart disease prevention. During my summer in Dhaka, I worked with healthcare providers to survey patients. My survey was well received by the healthcare workers and patients. I found this experience insightful and educational. It was a tremendous opportunity to see medicine in action in a different cultural context."

- Sayeef Mirza, MSIII

CHINA

"My project, New Frontiers for Medication Safety in Gansu, China, was a quantitative study about patient safety attitudes and behaviors of physicians and nurses at Gansu Provincial Hospital in Gansu, China. I was responsible for the study design, development of the research tool, data collection, data input and data analysis."

"Although working in China was challenging due to language and cultural barriers, this was an outstanding opportunity to gain experience conducting international research."

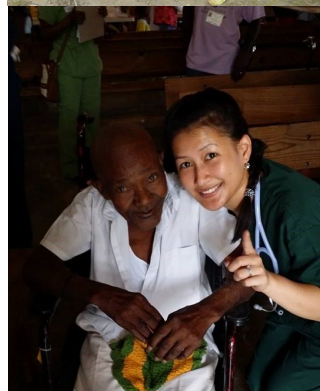
- Danielle Grams, MSII

NICARAGUA

"From May 18 – June 8, Eric Shamas and I traveled to Nicaragua to conduct a research study and volunteer with a community development NGO in Cedro Galan, Managua with funding from the Morsani College of Medicine Summer Stipend Program. With the NGO, Manna Project International, we taught English classes, conducted Health education with middle school boys, and facilitated a summer camp for children. The other NGO directors and volunteers were very helpful in facilitating our connections within the community, as well as providing us with meals and a place to stay. We also shadowed doctors in a public medical clinic in Managua and in a small clinic at the city dump.

This was a tremendous opportunity to see and participate in broad-spectrum, culturally sensitive healthcare."

- Eric Monaco, MSIII



For more information,
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