Global Health Opportunities for Students and Residents

I. Supporting International Health Efforts While At Home

~ Join GHEC, the Global Health Education Consortium. Free for students at member schools, and the newsletters, resources, and meetings are excellent. [http://www.globalhealthedu.org](http://www.globalhealthedu.org) Click on “Resources” and “Events” in particular.

~ Join the American Medical Student Association (AMSA)’s Global Health Committee ([www.amsa.org](http://www.amsa.org)) Click on “Take Action” then Committees and Action Groups, then Global, then Global Education & Opportunities

~ Join a global health committee, section or interest group of a medical professional society of your choice (for example: SOICH--the American Academy of Pediatrics’ [AAP] Section on International Child Health, [http://www.aap.org/sections/ich](http://www.aap.org/sections/ich) or the Academic Pediatric Association [APA] Special Interest Group [SIG] on International Health; [http://www.ambpeds.org](http://www.ambpeds.org)

~ Make donations, help with fundraising
  ★ Collect and donate medical supplies and equipment
  ★ REMEDY: 203-737-5356, ([www.remedyinc.org](http://www.remedyinc.org))
  ★ American Medical Resources Foundation: 508-580-3301, ([www.amrf.com](http://www.amrf.com))
  ★ World Medical Mission/Samaritan’s Purse: ([www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org)) Click on World Medical Mission, the Donating Materials
  ★ AMSA’s Medical Instrument and Equipment Recycling Program (search medical recycling)
  ★ International Medical Equipment Collaborative (IMEC) North Andover, MA ([www.imecamerica.org](http://www.imecamerica.org))
  ★ American Medical Association’s WorldScopes Program. Collect used stethoscopes and mail to WorldScopes—they deliver to developing countries, ([http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/12768.html](http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/12768.html))
  ★ Collect and donate medical books/journals
  ★ American Academy of Pediatrics Section on International Child Health Book Repository. Contact Donna Staton MD, dstaton@massmed.org.
  ★ Global Medicine Network: ([www.globalmedicine.org](http://www.globalmedicine.org)) Joining the network is free and as a member you can post items to donate, or request needed supplies.
  ★ MEDICC, Medical Education in Cooperation with Cuba; (is sometimes temporarily suspended due to political restrictions on interactions with Cuba) ([http://www.medicc.org](http://www.medicc.org))

~ Select research projects relevant to developing countries

~ Provide logistical support for non governmental organizations (NGOs--work with those based in your area)


~ Stay informed (BBC on NPR, WBUR 90.9, WGBH 89.7); scan [www.WorldHealthNews.harvard.edu](http://www.WorldHealthNews.harvard.edu); subscribe to NGO newsletters: e.g. Global Health Council, [www.globalhealth.org](http://www.globalhealth.org), Doctors of the World (DOW), [www.doctorsoftheworld.org](http://www.doctorsoftheworld.org), Health Volunteers Overseas, [www.hvousa.org](http://www.hvousa.org); American Medical Student Association (AMSA) [www.amsa.org Global Health Listserv](http://www.amsa.org Global Health Listserv); Click on Take Action, Listservs, global@lists.amsa.org; also see their journal “Global Pulse” under Publications

~ Learn how the US compares to other nations regarding foreign aid and international development: See the Center for Global Development website: ([http://www.cgdev.org](http://www.cgdev.org)) and click on “Initiatives” at top, then 2009 Commitment to Development Index (What is the CDI?)

~ Educate yourself and others about the health and human rights issues of children around the world. The UNICEF website has extensive information and data; The State of the World’s Children is an annual report.
available on-line or in print, covering a different theme (nutrition, education, child labor, etc.) each year, www.unicef.org and click on Publications on the left side bar.

~ Network with other medical schools/public health schools/residencies with international health programs—subscribe to their newsletters: e.g. St. Joseph’s Regional Medical Center’s “Residents and International Health” (editor Kevin Ericson MD, ericsonk@sjrnc.com); Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center’s Global Health Program listserv and journal club, http://www.bidmc.org/MedicalEducation/GlobalHealthProgram.aspx

~ Start an International Health Curriculum at your school or program (see AMSA website’s “Starting an International Health Curriculum at Your School.” Get there by clicking Take Action, Committees & Interest Groups, Global, Global Education & Opportunities, and see “Bringing International Health Home.”

II. Finding An Appropriate Elective (Start early if you can!)

Get leads by word of mouth; network at conferences such as this one


Inquire in person while traveling abroad

Contact NGOs directly: Refer to long lists on AAP website: (http://www.aap.org/cgi-bin/overseas/aapartc1.cfm), or the International Medical Volunteers Association’s website: (www.imva.org), Click on “Help Wanted”

Take a “formal” international health/tropical medicine course:
  • o Management of Humanitarian Emergencies: Focus on Children and Families: Annually at Case Western, 1 week in summer, inexpensive housing, 216/983-1239; June 7-11, 2010.
      Provides excellent background and preparation for relief work.
  • o Case Western courses in international health http://www.case.edu/orgs/cghd/Courses.htm
  • o Gorgas Course in Clinical Tropical Medicine -- Peru (via University of Alabama) (http://info.dom.uab.edu/gorgas/) 2 months, usually Jan-Feb, often you must apply a year in advance
  • o International Health in the Developing World: Clinical and Community Care (http://www.globalhealth.arizona.edu) (July 12-30, 2010)
  • o International Health Central American Institute: (http://www.ihcai.org) Click on “Programs.”

Take a medical Spanish or French/health course
  • o GHEC lists several programs, click on Resources, see Foreign Language Study
  • o Work Study Spanish: (Mexico Pacific Coast): (www.mardejade.com) Click on Volunteer Programs
  • o AMSA’s “SALUD” Programs (http://www.amerispan.com/salud/)
  • o University of Nebraska’s “Medical Spanish/International Health” program: (www.unmc.edu/isp)
  • o Interhealth South America, International Health and Medical Spanish (4th year students and residents; and summer program for 1st year medical students): (www.InterhealthSouthAmerica.net) Dr. Don Wedemeyer,

Apply for an established elective through a medical school or organization
  • o Roatan Volunteer Pediatric Clinic, Honduras: (http://www.roatanclinic.org/)
  • o Belize Rural Elective (Medical College of Wisconsin): (www.family.mcw.edu/Belize.htm)
  • o Child Family Health International (Mexico, India, Ecuador, S. Africa): (www.cfhi.org)
  • o International Service Learning (ISL), Kenya and Uganda programs: (www.islonline.org)
  • o OmniMed Program (Uganda, Belize, Guyana): (www.omnimed.org)
  • o Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine, Kenya program: (http://www.oucom.ohiou.edu/International/SHAREKenya/index.htm)
III. Funding an International Health Elective

Massachusetts Medical Society (Global Medicine Committee, scholarships available for students or residents, approx. $750 each; [http://www.globalmedicine.org/GMN/grant.html])

Professional organizations: (American Academy of Pediatrics has $500 scholarships each year for pedi residents doing electives abroad; see the AAP Section on Students, Residents, and Fellows website at [http://www.aap.org/sections/vpn/r/funding_awards/international_travel.html])

MCAAP (Mass. Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics) International Health Studies Grant Program, $500 each, rolling deadline. For medical students, residents and pediatricians: ([www.mcaap.org](http://www.mcaap.org)) Click on Grants on the left side bar, then David Sigelman awards, or [http://www.mcaap.org/david-sigelman-international-studies-grant/](http://www.mcaap.org/david-sigelman-international-studies-grant/)

Yale/Johnson & Johnson Physician Scholars in International Health Program: ([http://www.info.med.yale.edu/ischolar/](http://www.info.med.yale.edu/ischolar/))

University of Washington’s International Health Group Sources for Funding:
University of Illinois Funding Opportunities: [http://www.library.uiuc.edu/iris]

Baylor College of Medicine List of Funding Sources: [http://www.bcm.edu/medschool/tracks/international/funding_sources.htm]

Fogarty International Center One year fellowship for research abroad: [http://www.aamc.org/students/medstudents/overseasfellowship]

NIH Fogarty International Center: [http://www.fic.nih.gov]

ABMAC Clerkship-in-Taiwan Award (American Bureau for Medical Advancement in China): [http://www.studyabroadfunding.org/international/-102.html]

The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship (3 months in Lambarene, Gabon); in Boston, 617-667-5111: [www.schweitzerfellowship.org]

AMSA “Funding Your Trip” [http://www.amsa.org/AMSA/Homepage/About/Committees/Global/FundingYourTrip.aspx] and great list of scholarships, especially click on the universities—some like Duke have many opportunities.

Christian Medical and Dental Associations: many scholarships, [http://www.cmdahome.org/] Click “Missions” then “Scholarships.”


Health Volunteers Overseas/Orthopedics Overseas: Funds two residents annually, [www.hvousa.org] or call and ask for staff working with Orthopedics Overseas 202-296-0928, Washington DC

David L. Boren Graduate Fellowships: [www.borenawards.org]

IIEPassport Study Abroad Funding: [http://www.studyabroadfunding.org/]

Student National Medical Association: [http://www.snma.org/programs-international.php]

University of Arizona Family and Community Medicine List of scholarships: [http://www.globalhealth.arizona.edu/financial_assistance]

International Healthcare Opportunities Clearinghouse, UMass Memorial Med Center: [http://library.umassmed.edu/ihoc/resources.cfm] scroll down to Grants & Funding

Amigos Program has a fundraising booklet [http://www.amigoslink.org/] Click on “Volunteer” on the left, then “Fundraising Info” and see CV Fundraising Guide or [http://www.amigoslink.org/Amigos/volunteer/fundraising]

Association of American University Women Educational Foundation has many fellowships and awards for students: [http://www.aauw.org/fga/fellowships_grants/index.cfm]

The Foundation will award fellowships for full-time study or research to women who are not US citizens or permanent residents (graduate and post-graduate study is supported)

British Marshall Scholarship: [http://www.marshallscholarship.org/]

Community of Science contains a database of funding resources for research: [http://www.cos.com/]

The Foundation Center: [http://foundationcenter.org/] see “Find Funders” at the top (not medicine specific)

GrantsNet: [http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/funding?CFID=19217&CFTOKEN=63065233]

Institute for International Education: [http://www.iie.org/]


CDC Foundation: [http://www.cdcfoundation.org/index.aspx] Click on Programs, then “Training & Edcuation, or [http://www.cdcfoundation.org/fellowships/students.aspx]

MAP International Medical Fellowship: [http://www.map.org/site/PageServer?pagename=what_Medical_Fellowship]

Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarships: (see under Students & Youth) [http://www.rotary.org/en/StudentsAndYouth/EducationalPrograms/AmbassadorialScholarships/Pages/ridefault.aspx]
IV. Preparing Before You Go

GHEC power point: http://globalhealthedu.org/PublicDocs/PrepOverseas.ppt
Emergency Clinics of North America: Vol. 23 (2005), 149-175. Nice article by Dr. Suzanne Sarfaty and Dr. Kristian Arnold “Preparing For International Medical Service.”

Working in International Child Health a book produced by the AAP Section on International Child Health; how to find and prepare for work in developing countries; AAP 800-433-9016, ask for publications or http://www.aap.org/sections/ich/publications.htm

The GHEC Guidebook: Advising Medical Students & Residents for International Health Experiences
On-line at http://globalhealthedu.org/resources/Pages/GHECGuidebook.aspx

SUPERCOURSE, Univ. of Pittsburgh Dept. of Epidemiology. Hundreds of lectures on health in developing countries: (www.pitt.edu/~super1/)

International Medical Volunteers Association, (IMVA): (www.imva.org) Click “Get Ready to Go”

Christian Medical Fellowship/Health Serve (British): (http://www.healthserve.org/)

Have a reliable contact(s) at your overseas site (supervisor, evaluator)

Investigate the site: Work and living conditions—contact others who have been there!

Medical/professional Preparations: diseases you’ll see, malnutrition, limited diagnostic/treatment options, appropriate technologies, books to bring...

Language preparations: www.globalhealthedu.org Great starting place, click on “Resources” and scroll down to Foreign Language Study…

- Haitian Creole/English Medical Dictionary. Available from IMVA; send an email to info@imva.org or write to IMVA, PO Box 205, Woodville, MA 01784. $10. Or email Donna Staton MD, dstaton@massmed.org

- Spanish (many available); for Pediatric Spanish: AAP, 800-433-9016, or order on-line at: (http://www.aap.org/bst/showdetl.cfm?&DID=15&Product_ID=900)

- Pocket Medical French, or Pocket Medical Russian; Russell K. Dollinger, Ph.D. Booksmythe (www.booksmythe.com). Click on medical books. Other languages available.

Cultural preparation

- Travel guides such as Lonely Planet, Moon Handbooks

- Intercultural Press: (www.interculturalpress.com) Type “Guides” in their search box.

- Personal contacts

Personal preparations

- CDC Website: (www.cdc.gov) Click on “Travelers’ Health”

- Make appointment with local travel clinic

- Medical, malpractice, and evacuation insurance

- Travel Insurance Center: http://www.worldtravelcenter.com/
 Offers medical, accident and disability insurance for relief workers, with coverage for acts of war and terrorism including chemical, nuclear and bio warfare.

- SOS www.internationalsos.com Medical and evacuation insurance.

- Highway to Health: (www.highway2health.com)

- Champion Insurance Advantage: (www.champion-ins.com)

- All Trip Insurance: (http://www.alltripinsurance.com)
V. Further Professional Training

Apply for AMSA’s Global Health Scholars Program, a 6-month study-at-home interactive curriculum on global health and human rights, which awards a certificate upon completion

http://www.amsa.org/AMSA/Homepage/EducationCareerDevelopment/AMSAAcademy/GHSP.aspx

Choose a residency with an International Health Track!

MPH in International Health

DTMH = Diploma in Tropical Medicine & Hygiene (Hopkins, Tulane, UVa, WVU, Uniformed Services UHS, Case Western, Gorgas Institute/Alabama, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine...)

Gorgas Course in Tropical Medicine, 2 months: http://gorgas.dom.uab.edu/

Red R UK http://www.redr.org.uk Lots of training courses for relief work

Relief Web training courses: http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwt.nsf/doc211?OpenForm (see their home page too)

The Swiss Tropical Institute (worldwide courses): (http://www.sti.ch/) Click on Teaching and Training

Management of Complex Humanitarian Emergencies: Annually at Case Western, Cleveland; June 7-11, 2010 inexpensive housing, call Joan Farmer 216-983-1237; Joan.Farmer@UHhospitals.org

Medical relief/refugee work: Medecins Sans Frontieres, Doctors of the World, International Rescue Committee

Health and Child Survival Fellows Program (paid program 1-2 years):

http://apha.confex.com/apha/134am/techprogram/exhibitor_1252.htm

CDC Training Program in Epidemiology, etc.: (http://www.cdc.gov/train.htm)

Future volunteer work--International Medical Volunteers Association (IMVA): (www.imva.org)