



# Internationalizing the Medical Education Curriculum

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# Disclosures

- None

## My Background

- Personal interest
- Worked in development (Azerbaijan)
  - Emergency Medicine Development Initiative
  - International Medical Corps (Country Director)
- Academic interest
  - MPP in Development Studies
  - Research
- At Jefferson & Rutgers
  - Service projects (Sierra Leone, Jamaica)
  - Building global health programs
- National/International



## We're going to talk about...

- Value of education in global health
- Infusing global health in the medical education curriculum
- Laying the foundation for students interested in global health careers
- Curricular innovations related to global health

## In the past at GHIC

- Hurdles
  - There's no demand for it
  - We already do it...organically
  - We don't have the money
  - We don't know where to start
  - We'll never catch up
- My advice was
  - Focus on education – not on service
  - Start with students
  - Collaborate
  - Think long-term

# Heeding my own advice

- Team effort
- Target
  - Students of all years in medical school
- Goals
  - Infuse aspects of global health throughout the medical school curriculum
  - Offer options to students with varying interest/experience in global health
    - Not one-size fits all
  - Focus on Education (with research and service tied in)
  - Make it academically rigorous
    - Not just a time to go visit extended family who happen to be physicians

## Fourth-year medical students

- Four-week electives
  - International health elective
  - Global surgery elective
  - Focused on students looking to “dabble” in global health
- Limit options
  - Work on existing projects/relationships
- Make it more rigorous
  - Pre-departure approval process
  - Pre-departure requirements
  - Post-elective meeting/presentation
  - Post-elective poster for global health symposium

## Third-year medical students

- Global Health Elective
  - Focused on students with prior commitment to global health
- Make it more rigorous
  - Required to be part of an existing project
  - Focused tasks for the visit (data gathering, pilot intervention, etc.)
  - Encourage IRB approval if appropriate
  - Brief write-up of goals prior to visit
  - Summary of accomplishments after visit



## First & Second-year medical students

- Global Health coursework
- Incorporate into existing curriculum
  - Health Equity & Social Justice
- Woven into the first two years based on other curricular elements
  - Ethics
  - Cultural competency
  - Communicable diseases
  - Non-communicable diseases, including surgical/trauma burden
  - Comparative health systems
- Flipped classroom
  - Online modules
  - In-class lecture (brief)
  - Breakout discussion groups

## For the select few...

- Distinction Program in Global Health
  - By application in fall of the first-year
  - Targeted to students interested in focused studies in global health
  - Longitudinal over entire medical school time
  - Significant mentorship/guidance
  - Noted on diploma
  
- \*Faculty time commitment

# Distinction Program in Global Health

- Requirements
  - A minimum of bi-annual meetings with the respective Distinction Program advisor
  - Attendance at all Distinction Program didactic sessions
  - Development of a Distinction Program portfolio that documents Distinction Program activities and achievements
  - Leadership role in global health student organizations
  - Research component related to field experiences (between MS1 & MS2 year, MS3 year and MS4 year)
  - Completion of a 4th year Capstone elective to finalize Distinction Program requirements

## What do we achieve?

- Hundreds of students with some exposure to global health
- Hundred of students that will stop and think about ethical issues related to global health
- Students with a foundation in building continuing expertise in global health

Education = Human Capacity