MSU FIRST TO SOLIDIFY STUDENT MEDICAL ELECTIVE IN CUBA

Michigan State University medical students will be the first in the U.S. to travel to Cuba in a medical elective in April. Students will be led by MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine faculty members, including William Cunningham, interim director of the Institute of International Health. The medical students will have the opportunity to shadow in the Cuban hospitals and learn about the Cuban healthcare system.

According to Dr. Cunningham, Cuba boasts one of the lowest infant mortality rates in the Western Hemisphere. According to the CIA’s World Fact Book, in 2014, Cuba averaged 4.7 infant deaths per 1,000 live births compared to 6.17 in the United States. These students will study the Cuban public health system and have the ability to compare it to the U.S.,” Cunningham said. “We want them to understand that even with all of the advances in medical technology here in America, Cuba’s medical system is grounded in primary care and public health and they’ve been able to achieve comparative health statistics with the United States, albeit with scarce resources.”

The elective is open to fourth-year students in the MSU colleges of human medicine, osteopathic medicine and nursing.
NEW MERIDA HEALTH CLINIC opens doors for MSU, College of Osteopathic Medicine

A new health clinic opened its doors in Merida, Mexico on November 23, 2015. It is a project that MSU and the Yucatan state government have been working on for the last four years.

The clinic was built by the Yucatan Department of Health and it will host researchers, doctors, residents and students from the MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine. Administrators and faculty members from the college and the MSU Institute of International Health have been working with leaders at the health department and the hospital for four years. The College was also responsible for connecting the State with Project CURE, a nonprofit organization that supplied the Yucatan’s first hemodialysis machines for people suffering from kidney disease.

“This clinic is the culmination of a partnership that we established several years ago. In addition to providing numerous opportunities for medical education for residents from Mexico and Michigan, we’re advancing osteopathic medicine and we’re serving a population in need of health care,” said Jake Rowan, D.O., MSU associate professor of osteopathic manipulative medicine and director of medical education for the Yucatan partnership.

Catherine Donahue, D.O., Merida clinic director for Hospital Agustin O’Horan, relocated to the Yucatan to operate the clinic, including connecting with local doctors who provide referrals.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, YUCATAN STATE strengthen cooperation and collaboration efforts

A delegation from Yucatan visited MSU in February 2016 to discuss strengthening and broadening the collaborative efforts between the university and the Mexican state. The delegation included Yucatan Gov. Rolando Zapata Bello; Miguel Cabrera Palma, director of Beneficencia Publica de Yucatan; a public assistance program; Lt. Gov. Eric Rubio Barthell; Dr. Eduardo Batfori Sampedro, minister of urban development and environment; Juan Canul Perez, secretary for rural development and Dr. Andre Aluja, director of international cooperation for UADY, the Autonomous University of Yucatan.

The group met with governmental and university leaders including President Lou Anna K. Simon, College of Osteopathic Medicine Dean William Stampel, College of Natural Science Associate Dean David DeWitt, College of Veterinary Medicine Dean John Baker and Dean of MSU International Studies and Programs, Steve Hanson. They were hosted by the Institute of International Health and visited a number of university facilities, including university farms to which they toured with faculty and staff from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources; the Broad College of Business, where they toured the International Business Center; and learned about the college’s leading supply chain management program; the College of Engineering; the Center for Latin American Studies; and MSU Migrant Student Services. In addition to witnessing the signing of a new memorandum of understanding between MSU and the Yucatan state, the group took time for socializing by attending the Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation Ball in Dearborn, Michigan.
The Institute of International Health hosts a number of individuals from around the world for cross-cultural experiences and multidisciplinary learning throughout the year. From undergraduate students to medical professionals, they all have the chance to interact with MSU faculty, staff and students, as well as health care professionals from a number of institutions. Here’s a recap of the programs that IIH hosted in 2015.

**Global Observationship Program**

- **Mr. Ryosaku Oshiro** from Nagasaki University, School of Medicine spent March 30 to April 24 in an observationship at Sparrow Hospital, Lansing, Michigan, in the areas of internal medicine, family medicine and emergency medicine.

- **Mr. Eun Sil Cha** (fourth-year medical student) and Mr. Su Bean Lee (third-year medical student) in the College of Medicine at Hallym University in R.O. Korea spent July 6-31 in an observationship at McLaren Bay Regional Hospital, Bay City, Michigan, supervised by Dr. Tom Reeths in the areas of internal medicine, cardiology, radiology, emergency medicine and family medicine.

- **Mr. Estacio Franco Pinto**, a Brazil Scientific Mobility Program awardee, spent May 11 to July 3 with an observationship in emergency medicine, internal medicine and family medicine, focusing on the trauma unit at Sparrow Hospital.

**Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine Faculty Training Program**

Twenty medical faculty members from Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine were in East Lansing during June 15-27 for training that was hosted in collaboration with Visiting International Professional Program. They heard lectures, visited hospitals and met with doctors and other professionals to better understand the American health care system.

**Global Healthcare Professional Shadowing Program**

Fourteen health care students from Daedong University, Busan, R.O. Korea visited East Lansing from June 15 to July 4 for lectures and hospital visits.

**Advanced Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine-Chuna Training Program**

A group of 13 doctors from the Korean Society of Chuna Manual Medicine visited MSU and the East Lansing area from July 19-Aug. 1 and received hands-on instruction in advanced OMM techniques. During their visit, Dr. Joon-Shik Shin, chairman of Jeaseng Hospital, delivered a lecture focusing on Korean-style manual medicine for Michigan Osteopathic Association members and the visiting Korean physicians at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in East Lansing.

**Pre-Medical English Program**

The Michigan State University English Language Center co-sponsored an August visit to the East Lansing campus by seven pre-med students from Hallym University College of Medicine in R.O. Korea and four pre-med students from Japan’s Nagasaki University School of Medicine.

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**STUDENT’S DETERMINATION GIVES SCHOOLKIDS A CHANCE**

In 2014, student Elise Craig traveled to Peru to help administer medical care. While there, she discovered schoolchildren in the village of Carancas were drinking water from a well contaminated with high levels of arsenic.

Students in the Peru elective, conducted through the College of Osteopathic Medicine, can earn study abroad credits as an elective with the Institute of International Health.

Instead of standing idly by, in true Spartan form, Craig decided to take action. Ambitious and energetic, Craig is a high-achieving third-year MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine (MSUCOM) student deeply interested in pursuing solutions. So much so that she contacted Engineers Without Borders, who installed water filtration systems in the village. And it didn’t stop there.

After submitting the arsenic research findings into a national poster competition, Craig won three hundred dollars—which was then used to purchase additional water filters for multiple Peruvian villages in need of clean water.

And due to her receiving private support, Craig traveled back to Peru in 2015, where the MSUCOM team expanded on the research she began. Craig is applying for grants to fund further research and water filtration devices for multiple Peruvian villages in need of clean water.

Craig’s many MSU experiences will be essential to her future. She is now only one short year away from the coveted, hard-earned D.O. title, and will no doubt leave MSU prepared to make a difference in the world.
The Institute of International Health supports medical students’ explorations through life-changing global experiences. This account from one MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine student highlights the way that clerkships, electives and other study abroad learning can affect the way that participants view themselves, the world and their place in it.

By Mazen Zein
Fourth-year student, MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine

During the fall semester of my fourth year at MSUCOM, I took it upon myself to experience a two-week clerkship rotation in Beirut, Lebanon. My supervising physician/attending was urologist Nassir Khalil, M.D., an alumnus of the American University of Beirut. It’s an ACOMI-1 university—the fourth institution in the world to receive this accreditation.

My time with Dr. Khalil included surgical, clinical outpatient and social interaction with Syrian refugees. This opportunity not only allowed me to further my medical skills and knowledge, but also allowed me to put myself in a region under tremendous turmoil and in an area with a significant demand for medical professionals. The sheer volume of people in need of basic medical attention is unprecedented and at the present time requires entire nations to mobilize their people and resources in order to help.

I met two young brothers, Ahmed and Ali, ages 5 and 7, respectively, and I was struck by how they have practically lost all sense of a childhood. The boys and their families had left Hama, a once beautiful and lively Syrian city to travel hundreds of miles in search of a new beginning. The boys were spending their days picking dates from trees, earning whatever they could to contribute to their family. Those children had not seen a physician, attended school or even had a home to live in since they left their homeland several years ago. I cannot help but to think how privileged and lucky I am to have the opportunity to receive a proper education, attend medical school and reach out to others in need. I only hope my time there aided people in such a devastating situation and gave hope where so much needed.

My experience during this rotation has influenced me to pursue some of my medical career outside of the United States. I am currently applying for residency in the 2016 match for Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. It is a dream and ultimate goal to go back to the area I have visited and build a rehabilitation center for children and adults.

There are a great deal of individuals who are severely injured, leaving them with amputations, traumatic brain injuries and physical deficits needing medical attention. International experiences like this are important to medical students because it opens their eyes to a world much greater than what they experience here. Having the opportunity to work with individuals that have lost everything will provide medical students with an incredible sense of fulfillment and reward. To be a part of such a difficult and demanding journey will make them a stronger clinician and a more appreciative individual. I only hope others will follow my ambitions and touch people’s lives here and across the globe.

THE VALUE OF INTERNATIONAL HEALTH CARE EXPERIENCE

By Linda Wang, D.O.

I was very grateful to complete a rotation at the Institute of Hematology & Blood Diseases Hospital of the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences in Tianjin, China. This experience exposed me to the large differences in health care practices in government-funded hospitals and research institutes.

The focus on inpatient treatment of diseases over the unpopular outpatient primary care system made an impression on me. Very few patients visit an outpatient primary care physician regularly and instead seek out specialists of their own accord. Most physician visits are on a first-come, first-serve basis and scheduled appointments are uncommon.

This international exposure let me expand my knowledge about how patients with hematological diseases are cared for in China, including gaining the opportunity to observe surgical treatments and also to see research efforts towards molecular and genetic understanding of many hematological diseases such as lymphoma and leukemia. Being a firsthand participant in seeing how other countries manage health care has helped me to better understand patient care and I believe this knowledge will contribute to my own future practice.

I hope that other students in health care-associated professions will seek to benefit from experiencing care systems in other countries and take advantage of any study abroad opportunities offered to them or forge their own international experiences.

INTERNATIONAL CLERKSHIP HELPS CHANGE MEDICAL STUDENT’S VIEW OF THE WORLD

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By Erica Errigo
Second-year student, MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine

MSUCOM students Raksha Hemanth and Erica Errigo outside the Hospital General Augustin O’Haran in Merida, Mexico.

MSUCOM students Raksha Hemanth and Erica Errigo pose for a photo in front of the research poster that they developed after working in Merida, Mexico.

MEDICAL STUDENTS EXPLORE RESEARCH IN MEXICO AND BRAZIL WITH SUPPORT FROM IIH

Thanks to the MSU Institute of International Health and the MSU Office of Study Abroad, two MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine students had the opportunity to conduct research in Brazil and Mexico.

Erica Errigo and Raksha Hemanth, both in their second year of medical school, surveyed the general population to gather information of disease prevalence in rural areas of both countries.

Both countries underwent health care reform in the past decade, and the students also surveyed health care workers to gather information regarding health care disparities.

With this data, the students learned that promoting preventative health care and health maintenance is of utmost importance in both countries, since chronic diseases were most prevalent.

Even Sparty knows that study abroad is important! He’s shown above with Sung Soo Chung, the IIH Associate Director of Global Health Training Programs. The two were photographed together at the MSU Office of Study Abroad Fair, Oct. 15 at the Jack Breslin Student Events Center. Over 160 MSU undergraduate, graduate and professional students visited the Institute of International Health table to learn about the variety of study abroad program offerings for undergraduate and graduate students.

In addition to talking about the first-ever medical elective in Cuba, the event gave IIH staff the chance to share information about study abroad trips to Mexico, Korea, Dominican Republic, Peru, Turkey, and Brazil.

STUDY ABROAD

Ishmael Masango
Second-year student, MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine

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MSU AND NAGASAKI UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE HOST ONE HEALTH CONFERENCE

“Connecting Knowledge, Improving Practice” was the theme of the first One Health conference held in Japan. Michigan State University cohosted the November event, which brought together researchers from Southeast Asia, New Zealand, South Africa, Afghanistan and the United States to collaborate on the global issues affecting our planet.

Dean Isao Shimokawa of the Nagasaki University School of Medicine, the conference president said, “Through the One Health approach we will be better able to direct our collective knowledge toward the improvement of practice in facing global health and environmental challenges of our planet.”

Abstracts of the conference presenters can be viewed at: https://www.conftool.net/onehealth-conference2015/sessions.php

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE GLOBALLY

There are myriad opportunities available to support students who take part in IIH experiences. You can make a difference in others’ lives with a financial gift of any size. Your support does not need to be as large as the $50,000 donation that came from the Jim and Diana Huckle Family Foundation of Traverse City, Michigan. Even a few dollars helps future health care workers gain a new world view, learn about themselves and get a clearer view of their future.

Financial gifts are critical to support electives for medical and nursing students. These burgeoning doctors, nurses and others travel abroad, explore new cultures and hone their clinical care skills. They return to the U.S. with new leadership abilities, perspectives and a passion for community service.

Donors can also choose to contribute to existing scholarship funds for students interested in international health. The Dr. Charles A. and Marjorie A. Gliozzo Scholarship Endowment and the Institute of International Health Student Endowment Fund both support student experiences.

Learn how you can contribute to scholarships or provide other support by contacting the IIH, visiting the IIH website https://www.msu.edu/~iih/ or the MSU Advancement donation site: https://www.givingto.msu.edu/gift/.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March
• Study Abroad: Mexico, Guatemala

April
• Study Abroad: Cuba

May
• Study Abroad: Dominican Republic

June
• One Health Conf., Shanghai
• Study Abroad: South Korea

August
• Study Abroad: Turkey, Peru

December
• Study Abroad: Brazil