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# Enhancing Medical Student Global Health Service and Learning Opportunities

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## Background

- Increasing medical student interest in global health
- Participation may be correlated with future careers in primary care
- Most opportunities focus on M1/M2 students via summer HOMBRE brigades
- Schedule limits participation of M3/M4 students
- Typical number of M3/M4 students on brigades prior to 2016 = 1-2 max per academic year

## Objectives

- Respond to student interest
- Develop elective course offerings to leverage existing brigades
- Increase participation of M3/M4 students in global health service and learning opportunities
- Promote appropriate student preparation



## Methods

- New M3/M4 global health electives (GHE) connected with brigades to Honduras (3x/year) and Dominican Republic (2x/year)
- Online GHE applications
- Online brigade-specific applications
- Participant screening interviews
- Formalized brigade preparation
- Standardized approval for GHE enrollment
- Clinical experience structured via brigades
- Online GHE evaluation post-travel



Photo courtesy of Mark Ryan, MD

## Outcomes to Date (2016-2017)

- 19 GHE applications submitted
- 14 M3/M4 students enrolled in GHEs and traveled on related brigades
- M3/M4 students readily incorporated into existing brigades
- 7 applications pending for 2017-2018 travel



Photo courtesy of Steve Crossman, MD

## Anonymous Student Feedback

- 11 responses representing 5 brigades
- Brigades and GHEs seen as well organized
- All respondents said they would go on another brigade or recommend to others
- Impact of GHEs on future careers and ongoing involvement in global health noted
- Chance to experience the practice of medicine in low resource areas of the world highly valued

*“...miles upon miles away from everything I know, immersed in a language I don't understand... I found my purpose...”*

*“... I foresee global health being part of my future career...”*

*“...the global health elective helped reaffirm my interest in global health and underserved populations within the United States...”*

*“... provided impetus to continue working in global health for the rest of my life...”*

## Questions for Further Study

- Does participation in M3/M4 GHEs impact primary care career choice?
- Do students already interested in underserved populations choose to participate in GHEs at a higher rate?
- How does participation in global health service in M3/M4 augment students' clinical education and career planning?