Curricular Tracks

International Health Track

The International Health track offers powerful, intensive opportunities to develop competencies in cultural diversity and community medicine. It is one of the only international health curricular tracks in the country and is for the resident who wants to enrich their education by helping change the health of populations in developing countries.

Your experience will be supported by a full curriculum where you will be immersed within the community, where health changes occur. Individuals’ health can be affected by the lack of vital public health services and infrastructure in their impoverished communities. Serving at the grassroots level, you will work to be a part of the community's solutions.

The International Health Track provides opportunities to touch the lives of people who are in great need. They’ll touch your life, too. You’ll have the unique experience only an international track can provide for a greater appreciation of the individual patient within the larger picture.

About the Track Director

Dr. James Sanders is a recognized international authority on forensic examination for survivors of torture and has served as an expert witness in multiple asylum hearings. He is regularly referred clients from across the Midwest for purposes of helping secure their freedom and safety. He has been honored with numerous awards for his service to the poor, recently receiving the President's Award for his work in the Republic of Georgia.

Where?

We have relationships with community health programs in Haiti, Guatemala, Belize, Afghanistan, Kenya and Zambia. We’re continuing to build relationships with projects in other countries and will try to accommodate special resident interests.

Objectives

Residents participating in this track will be able to:

- Care for patients in a developing country and learn about the interplay of health, disease, and poverty
- Understand community-oriented primary care
- Use epidemiologic skills to assess and track the health indices of a community including research design, implementation and evaluation
- Develop data analysis and presentation skills
- Gain grant writing skills
- Advocate for marginalized and vulnerable populations

Curricular Components

For PGY-2 and PGY-3

- One month Community/Ambulatory Medicine tailored to areas of personal interest, with particular attention to cultural competency, basic bio-statistics, epidemiology, and the theory and practice of community medicine.
• An away elective, where you will participate in another longitudinal health project in a less developed country, or develop your own international elective experience.

You may also begin work on an MPH.

Away rotations are subject to MCWAH and Columbia St. Mary’s requirements and approval. Rotations may be split into smaller fragments, such as two week blocks to accommodate other residency concerns.

For more information, contact:

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