

HAITI:

Usually takes place in February

Description:

The elective will consist of spending some time at the WRHA Travel Health and Tropical Medicine Clinic (Population and Public Health Program) in addition to participation on a team of health care professionals traveling to Port-au-Prince Haiti.

This elective will provide an opportunity for students to work alongside travel health nurses and tropical medicine physician specialists in the WRHA Travel Health and Tropical Medicine Clinic where they will be participating in the assessment of clients seeking pre-travel health advice as well as patients attending the clinic with post-travel illnesses, including the assessment and management of refugees who have tropical parasitic diseases.

While in Haiti, students will participate in a primary care clinical experience with Canadian nursing students and multidisciplinary Haitian clinical partners who live and work in a very under-resourced setting. Students will be expected to participate in 4-5 team orientation meetings between October and February (covering various aspects of the elective such as pre-travel preparations, travel clinic assessment, fundraising for the elective, trip logistics and costs, cross-cultural orientation, Creole language competency, etc). Students will be expected to participate as a full member of the multidisciplinary team engaged in various clinical activities (such as pharmacy management, clinical consultation, public health education, etc). Post elective, students will be expected to participate in one debriefing session with the team in March/April.

Learning Objectives:

1. Demonstrate the ability to perform a history, physical examination, and develop a differential diagnosis for common symptoms that individuals present with in Haiti (Medical Expert)
2. Diagnose and treat common medical conditions that affect the Haitian population (Medical Expert)
3. Develop a syndromic diagnostic approach in the setting of limited laboratory resources (Medical Expert)
4. Develop appropriate treatment plans given limited resources (Medical Expert)
5. Demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively across language and cultural barriers (Communicator)
6. Demonstrate the ability to work effectively within the context of a multidisciplinary interprofessional healthcare team (Collaborator/Professional)
7. Participate in the planning, logistical aspects, fundraising and evaluation of the team mission (Manager)
8. Describe and explain the similarities and differences between health care that is provided in Haiti and Canada (Health Advocate)
9. Develop a working knowledge of local cultural practices of “traditional” medicine and how these impact on the practice of “western” medicine (Scholar)
10. Participate in the teaching of medical and/or nursing students in Haiti (Scholar)

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