



Beyond the Biological Basis of Disease: The Social and Economic Causation of Illness

An Immersion Course in Social Medicine

Cange, Haiti

July 10-30, 2016

Course Overview

July 2016 will mark the launch of the fourth annual “*Beyond the Biological Basis of Disease*” course in Haiti. This annual three-week course, which is designed for health profession students of all levels (including but not limited to those studying medicine, nursing, midwifery, and public health), links tropical medicine with social medicine teaching. The course will be taught in French.

This course represents the first site expansion of a course that has been offered for the past six years in Gulu, Uganda by SocMed (www.socmedglobal.org). SocMed’s implementing partner in the launch of the Haiti course is EqualHealth (www.equalhealth.org) a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering Haiti’s next generation of health professionals through professional development and continuing education.

20 health profession students will participate in the course, ten from the University of the Aristide Foundation (UniFA) and other Haitian medical and nursing schools, and the other ten from around the world. The course will be held at the Partners in Health/Zanmi Lasante hospital in Cange, and students participating in the course will have the opportunity to visit other sites around Haiti.

The course merges a number of unique pedagogical approaches including field visits, classroom- based presentations and discussions, group reflections, student presentations, films, and bedside teaching. These approaches are utilized to create an innovative, interactive learning environment in which students participate as both learners and teachers. We hope to advance the entire class’ understanding of the interactions between the biology of disease and the social, cultural, economic, political, and historical factors that influence illness presentation and social experience.

The course curriculum places great importance on building partnerships and encouraging students to reflect upon their personal experiences with power, privilege, race, class, gender, and sexual orientation as central to effective partnership building in global health. In the spirit of *praxis* (a model of education that combines critical reflection with action) these components of the course give students the opportunity to discern their role in global health and social medicine through facilitated, in-depth conversations with core faculty and student colleagues.

Course Objectives

1. To promote international solidarity and partnership for generating solutions to global health challenges facing societies throughout the world
2. To foster reflective dialogue between Haitian and international health profession students as a means of strengthening ties between the next generation of Haitian health professionals and a global network of their peers.
3. To provide a structured global health experience for health profession students with dedicated supervision and teaching in clinical medicine and social medicine
4. To study issues related to global health in a resource-poor setting with an emphasis on local and global context
5. To foster critical analysis of global health interventions in resource-poor settings
6. To facilitate the development of a clinical approach to disease and illness using a biosocial model through structured supervision and teaching
7. To build an understanding and skill set associated with health advocacy



Course Curriculum

The course structure brings together teaching in both tropical medicine and social medicine. The social medicine component is divided into the following parts:

Part 1 – Determinants of Health Beyond Biology: Social and Economic Causation of Disease

Part 2 – Global Health Interventions: Paradigms of Charity, Humanitarianism, and Structural Change

Part 3 – Social Justice in Health Interventions: Models of Community-based Healthcare

Part 4 – Health and Human Rights and the Healthcare Worker as Advocate

Part 5 – Tools for Effective Application of Global Health Experience: Writing, Photography, Research, and Political Engagement

Clinical topics will include cholera, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, and other relevant diseases implicated in social determinants of health.

Course Faculty

A group of course leaders from both the U.S. and Haiti with expertise in tropical medicine and public health make up the core faculty, and will teach the courses in French.

Cost

It is estimated that an average US/international student's cost for the 2015 course will be:

- Airfare (average in recent years): \$600
- Full Room/Board for 3 weeks: \$1025
- Course Fee: \$ 1375
- Total: \$3000

This estimate does not include vaccination costs, spending money for gifts and other small personal expenses, or any additional travel in Haiti not associated with the course that students may wish to do.

Financial aid may be available to cover a portion of the course fees for those with demonstrated financial need. If interested in being considered for this scholarship, please make note when you submit your application and an additional form will be sent for you to complete.

Eligibility criteria for applicants:

- Health profession student of any year
- Fluent in French
- Available for the entire length of the course (July 10- 30, 2016)

Application Process

Priority deadline for applications for international students is February 15, 2016.

To complete an application or for more information, please visit www.equalhealth.org/socialmedicine
Please email cfox@equalhealth.org with any questions or concerns

Note: Credit for away electives can usually be arranged with a student's home institution