

# COMMUNITY HEALTH CLERKSHIP

## SMALL GROUP DESCRIPTIONS

(As Provided By Group Leaders AY08- 09)

### 1. Adult and Pediatric Trauma and Injury Prevention – Worcester & Worcester County

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This clerkship will explore the many facets of trauma and injury prevention--from community interventions to public policy change. Students will participate in a regional trauma conference, community-based injury prevention programs including a car seat safety checkpoint, two teen driving programs, a 'Home Safely Program' at neighborhood health centers, and lectures by the Chiefs of Pediatric Emergency Medicine and the Division of Trauma and Surgical Critical Care. In addition, students will be given the opportunity to shadow for rounds in the Pediatric ED, the Adult Trauma and Pediatric Trauma Units. This clerkship requires one Saturday program, with compensating time off during the week.

### 2. Refugee & Immigrant Health – Boston & Worcester

Mick Godkin (508) 856-3917 [michael.godkin@umassmed.edu](mailto:michael.godkin@umassmed.edu)

**Greater Boston Group:** Students will have the opportunity to visit key service and policy agencies which are active in immigration and refugee health issues including, the Boston Center for Refugee Health and Human Rights, the International Rescue Committee and Health Care for All, as well as spend time with refugee clients through a primary base site where you will be paired to spend the bulk of your time. Possibilities include the International Rescue Committee, the Chelsea Community Health Center (MGH-Chelsea) which has an exemplary immigrant and refugee program, and the Outreach Office of the Office of Multicultural Health at the DPH that provides services to all the different immigrant and refugee groups in MA. These activities will enable you to understand the health and socio-economic issues facing refugees, their plight in the homeland and refugee camps, the migration process, available services, and policy issues.

**Worcester Group:** Students will be paired at different sites including Catholic Charities' Refugee and Resettlement Program, Lutheran Services and the Great Brook Valley Community Health Center. Students have the opportunity to assist recent refugees and immigrants including from African countries such as Liberia, Somalia, Ghana, Sudan and Kenya. Meeting refugees from these countries will expose you to the hardships that they have endured in their homeland, refugee camps and with their transition to the US. You will become familiar with the immigration process, health issues, services and policies. This group will also work on the African Community Education Program, which is a very exciting new development involving African community leaders and UMASS students. This program provides a Saturday Academy for African children to augment their public school learning.

### 3. Health Care Access for People with Disabilities – Boston & Worcester

Linda Long-Bellil (508) 856-8417 [linda.long@umassmed.edu](mailto:linda.long@umassmed.edu)  
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This clerkship will explore the challenges experienced by people with various disabilities as they attempt to access health care and long-term supports and give students the opportunity to shadow members of an interdisciplinary team as they work with these individuals to enable them to live full lives in the community. In week one, students will learn about access to health care, communication issues, sexuality, childbirth, secondary medical conditions, work and rehabilitation services and long-term supports. Instructors from the Worcester area include health professionals and advocates with disabilities. Week two will include interaction with people with disabilities in clinical settings, including a nationally recognized model for integrating health care for people with disabilities through an interdisciplinary team approach at the Boston Community Medical Group. Students will see patients in the clinic, hospital and at home. Students' responses to past clerkships have been overwhelmingly positive. Typical comments include, "I have had more positive exposure to people with disabilities than I have in my whole life and "I now feel much more comfortable and self-assured." One student summed up her experience by saying, "The most important lesson I took away from [the disability clerkship] was just how independent and productive a person can be, regardless of any disability they might have, and secondly, how important it is for physicians to be aware of and receptive to the needs of people with disabilities and their families."

**4. Correctional Health Care – Statewide**

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Janet Hale (508) 856-5679 [janet.hale@umassmed.edu](mailto:janet.hale@umassmed.edu)

On any given day, approximately 1.9 million men and women are housed in our nation's prisons and jails. Equally as significant and perhaps less widely recognized is the fact that over half of this population "turns over" between custody and the community each year. Coupled with the fact that the inmate population increasingly mirrors the nation's most medically needy and underserved populations, it should be apparent that correctional healthcare presents one of the major public health challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The correctional medicine group will study the unique problems of this population and will have an opportunity to meet with clinicians, public health experts, correctional staff and inmates in a variety of settings including State, Federal and County. Students will be traveling to several Correctional Facilities (e.g., Bridgewater, Concord, Framingham, Shirley & Walpole) over the two-week rotation in groups. Students will also work one-on-one with physicians on some days of the clerkship. A van will be provided for group travel, but students are responsible for their own transportation on days they are one-on-one with providers. A group project will be determined during the first two meetings with students' input.

**5. Improving Access to Care in an Underserved Latino Community – Lawrence**

Donna Rivera (978) 725-7400 [drivera@glfhc.org](mailto:drivera@glfhc.org)

Participants will learn theoretical constructs and practical applications of community-based public health indicator-driven prevention activities designed to reduce HIV, STD, and Hepatitis C transmission among Latinos in Lawrence. Participants will work with HIV risk reduction and test counselors, participate in outreach, and meet with HIV program consumers. There will also be an opportunity to meet HIV staff providers, nurses, adherence counselors, case managers and Family Practice residents at the clinical sites.

**6. Health Policy & Politics in Massachusetts – Boston & Worcester**

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Jay Himmelstein (508) 856-3957 [jay.himmelstein@umassmed.edu](mailto:jay.himmelstein@umassmed.edu)

The Health Policy and Politics group will focus on the challenges currently facing the health care system in Massachusetts with an emphasis on increasing both the policy understanding and political competence of student participants. This year we will focus on health care reform legislation recently passed in Massachusetts that mandates that every resident of the Commonwealth have health insurance. By meeting key individuals who helped shape this legislation, students will gain a better understanding of this law and how it is impacting individuals, providers, employers, and other participants in Massachusetts.

The format will be highly interactive and participatory with students having an opportunity to interview key policy makers in the Commonwealth executive and legislative branches, advocacy organizations, and providers of relevant health care services. Readings will include core content in health care economics, health policy, and health reform strategies. Significant fieldwork in the Boston area will be required; it is anticipated that this group will be based in Boston 70% of the time and in Worcester 30% of the time.

**7. Adults with Intellectual Disability – Massachusetts**

Robert Baldor (508) 856-1509 [robert.baldor@umassmed.edu](mailto:robert.baldor@umassmed.edu)

Alexandra Bonardi (781) 642-0283 [alexandra.bonardi@umassmed.edu](mailto:alexandra.bonardi@umassmed.edu)

Students will have the opportunity to understand the unique issues related to caring for adults with intellectual disability - from housing, employment and health care needs. The student will spend time exploring the role of state and private community agencies in providing for this population and will appreciate the physician's role in caring for such individuals and interacting with the community in order to do so. Students will travel to the Worcester area, Waltham (Shriver Center) and Palmer/Springfield area (Monson State School) and possibly Boston.

**8. Homelessness – Worcester**

Erik Garcia (508) 860-1052 [garciae@umhmc.org](mailto:garciae@umhmc.org)

This rotation will explore the issue of homelessness as it pertains to healthcare, and examine new approaches to addressing this issue in Worcester and surrounding regions. Students will need access to a car.

**9. Community Health Workers: A Valued Health Access Liaison – Massachusetts**

Mick Huppert (508) 856-3255 [mick.huppert@umassmed.edu](mailto:mick.huppert@umassmed.edu)

Joanne L. Calista (508) 756-6676 [joanne.calista@umassmed.edu](mailto:joanne.calista@umassmed.edu)

Theresa Glenn (508) 856-4849 [theresa.glenn@umassmed.edu](mailto:theresa.glenn@umassmed.edu)

Paulette Renault Caragianes (508) 856-1683 [paulette.renault-caragianes@umassmed.edu](mailto:paulette.renault-caragianes@umassmed.edu)

Community Health Workers (CHW) play a unique role within local health care systems providing community members with social support, education and instrumental support to increase health care access. Students who participate in this group will learn, through active participation, how CHWs work within their community to promote health among groups who face many challenging health, economic and social issues. Because CHWs serve as community liaisons who bridge relationships between individuals living in the community and local health care providers, students will be offered an intimate view of the community. Students will also have the opportunity to learn about the organizations that employ CHWs, such as community health centers and community based organizations, and how CHWs interact within these organizations to improve community health.

Students will have the opportunity to work with CHWs who assist people of all ages and diverse cultural backgrounds in either urban or rural communities. There are also placements with CHWs who assist subgroups of the community who face specific health concerns such as substance abuse and HIV/AIDS. Students will be matched with CHWs in Springfield, Athol/Orange, Worcester, Turner's Falls, Lowell or other geographic areas if possible and will be expected to commute or stay with family or friends during the clerkship. Every effort will be made to place students in communities of interest to them and to assist with logistical details that may arise when traveling and working in unfamiliar communities. This clerkship is moderately structured and requires the student to be self-directed and open to new experiences.

**10. Substance Abuse – Central, MA**

Jay Broadhurst (508) 334-3678 [broadhuj@ummhc.org](mailto:broadhuj@ummhc.org)

This small group will investigate substance abuse as a community health problem. Students who select this group should be prepared to spend most of the rotation in the community meeting people, investigating causes, effects and community response to substance abuse. Students will travel to community agencies both public and private, which are involved with substance abuse in the community.

**11. Community Health & Health Care Delivery in Rural Central MA - Barre, MA**

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Joe Stenger (978) 355-6321 [stengerj@ummhc.org](mailto:stengerj@ummhc.org)

Suzanne Cashman (508) 856-2930 [suzanne.cashman@umassmed.edu](mailto:suzanne.cashman@umassmed.edu)

Students will be introduced to a various occupational, community and environmental health problems related to life in a rural community. They will work individually or in pairs on a topic of their choosing such as adolescent and school issues, issues for the elderly and alternative health in a rural community. Group is based out of the Barre Health Center which is a family practice residency training site. Students have the opportunity to shadow a rural doctor and participate in a health center based project as well. The group will also be scheduled for multiple site visits in the community.

**12. Family Advocates of Central Massachusetts – Boston & Worcester County**

David Keller (508) 943-5224 [kellerd@ummhc.org](mailto:kellerd@ummhc.org)

Harry Ferguson (508) 752-3718 [hferguson@laccm.org](mailto:hferguson@laccm.org)

Valerie Zolezzi-Wyndham (508) 752-3718 [vzolezzi-wyndham@laccm.org](mailto:vzolezzi-wyndham@laccm.org)

Hinna Mushtaque (508) 752-3718 [hmushtaque@laccm.org](mailto:hmushtaque@laccm.org)

This group will focus on ways in which social factors affect the health of children and ways in which physicians and nurses can collaborate with community programs to ameliorate that impact. The group will be working with Family Advocates of Central Massachusetts (a partnership with Legal Assistance Corporation of Central Massachusetts [LACCM]). Working with pediatricians and family physicians in six clinical sites, students will learn how those practices chose to partner with attorneys to assure access to care for their patients, participate in an HSC-approved evaluation activity for the program and visit many of the agencies and courts through which our patients/ clients interact with the health care system. Students will travel to various locations in Boston and Worcester County.

**\*Students must complete the UMASS HSC Course in Research Ethics on-line in order to participate in the evaluation activities.**

### **13. Injury Prevalence and Prevention among Elders on an Island Community – Martha’s Vineyard**

Suzanne Cashman (508) 856-2930 [suzanne.cashman@umassmed.edu](mailto:suzanne.cashman@umassmed.edu)

Cindy Mitchell (508) 693-5090 [cmitchell@vineyard.net](mailto:cmitchell@vineyard.net)

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Karen Meeks (508) 696-0863 [meeksmv@comcast.net](mailto:meeksmv@comcast.net)

In 2003, the Dukes County Health Council's Geriatric Access Committee (now the Elder Affairs Committee) conducted a study of elder referral patterns among a wide variety of community health, social, safety, and spiritual providers. One of the study's findings was that while frequent interaction occurred among providers for elder care, one notable exception was between physical therapy/rehabilitation services and public safety officials. As a way of engaging public safety, rehabilitative and other health and human service professionals in a joint effort to develop a prevention campaign regarding home safety and injury prevention, the committee set a goal of designing an elder injury prevention program for Martha's Vineyard.

Using existing data sources augmented by data that students gather, students in the community health clerkship will determine types of injuries that occur on the island among the population age 60 and over (at least 15% of the island population). Additionally, it might be possible to meet with groups of seniors at the various Councils on Aging in a focus group type of format to discuss participants' anecdotal experiences. Students will explore the following questions: Are there discernable injury patterns? Are there problems endemic to island/rural county living? What are the likely causes of injuries and how can they be prevented? How would elders like agencies to coordinate their services?

Students will work with the Elder Affairs Council to identify and then query leaders of selected island resources to learn what injury prevention efforts are currently in place. Questions will focus on existing services to learn the types of information disseminated, to whom the information is directed, how the information is developed, and the time frame involved.

Based on their work, students will make recommendations regarding improvements that could be implemented and the directions that could be taken to ensure development of a coordinated community effort aimed at accident prevention. The students' work could contribute significantly to the development of collaborative island wide initiatives in the area of elder injury prevention.

Students will live on the island for the two weeks of the clerkship in housing provided by the Martha's Vineyard hospital. Costs of transporting a car on the ferry will be underwritten.

### **14. Faces and Places of the Urban Underserved – Worcester**

Matthew Collins (508) 860-7700 [matthew.collinsfhcw@umassmed.edu](mailto:matthew.collinsfhcw@umassmed.edu)

Sherry Coldren (508) 860-7700 [sherry.coldrenfhcw@umassmed.edu](mailto:sherry.coldrenfhcw@umassmed.edu)

Students participating in the community health course at the Family Health Center will become acquainted with Worcester's medically underserved through a two-tiered experience. First, students will explore the health center and the surrounding community to familiarize themselves with the local demographics, cultures and medical and social issues including schools, churches, stores and restaurants, as well as the local teen center, the homeless shelter, the drug detoxification facility, and other social service organizations. We will also explore the health center in depth to develop an understanding of the community health center model and the concept of community-oriented primary care. Students will further explore the community's resources on their own through the "patient for a day experience" in which students will be given a problem or task, and asked to accomplish this task with the resources typically available to our patients. They will then report back to the group about their experiences. Finally, we will select one particular group that the center serves, or one particular problem faced by our patient population, and study it in more depth. This will likely involve pairing students with patients and their families for home visits, visits to the doctor and other activities with that family. The final poster presentation will focus on this more in-depth investigation.

### **15. Geriatrics - Worcester**

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Theresa Eckstrom (508) 756-1545 [teckstrom@eswa.org](mailto:teckstrom@eswa.org)

Lois B. Green (508) 829-0947 [lgreen6130@aol.com](mailto:lgreen6130@aol.com)

Students will become familiar with some of the services and issues involved in delivering health care to the older adult population in the Worcester community through a highly interactive, highly structured and multiple-site format. Students will visit a number of Worcester community-based agencies along the entire continuum of elder care: lunch with older adults at a senior center; home visits with case managers and nurses; a day at a social day care center; observation of a hospice team meeting, and learn first-hand the difference between nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Students will also learn about Medicare and Medicaid, innovative financing and service delivery programs and the interdisciplinary/team approach to elder care. Finally, students will have clinical experience with a geriatrician seeing elderly patients. Students will need access to a car.

### **16. Optimizing Perinatal Outcomes Through Women's Health Services – Worcester**

Rosemary Theroux (508) 856-5744 [rosemary.theroux@umassmed.edu](mailto:rosemary.theroux@umassmed.edu)

Tiffany Moore Simas (508) 334-8459 [mooret@umhmc.org](mailto:mooret@umhmc.org)

The purpose of this clerkship is to investigate the high perinatal mortality rate in Worcester and learn about the services available to women receiving prenatal care through the UMass Memorial Health Care System. Students in this group will be exploring the public health challenges of reducing the infant mortality rate in Worcester. Through experiences at various clinical sites students will examine the factors contributing to this problem, explore available services for childbearing families, and evaluate current methods of reducing preterm birth within the health care system and community.

### **17. Aging and Public Policy – Boston & Worcester**

Jennifer Davis Carey (508) 856-5905 [jennifer.carey@umassmed.edu](mailto:jennifer.carey@umassmed.edu)

As a result of the confluence of two trends: increased longevity and the aging of the Baby Boomers (the generation born between 1946 and 1964), Massachusetts, like its sister states is in the midst of an age wave that will have dramatic effects on our common life. Indeed, the fastest growing segment of our population is the very old--those age 85 and older. The purpose of this clerkship is to consider this age wave, its challenges, the realities of life for this demographic group (both those who are healthy and those living with the burden of disease), implications for caregivers, and implications for health care providers, systems and public policy. Students will meet with senior state policy makers, lawmakers, caregivers, elders, providers, and advocates to consider this issue, current trends, and promising practices in service delivery through multiple lenses. Students will also explore issues and solutions regarding care for elders with mental illness, with cognitive and memory impairments, with chronic physical illness and the care systems for individuals in community and institutional settings.

### **18. Massachusetts Public Hospital System – Lemuel Shattuck Hospital (LSH) – Jamaica Plain**

Anne Bateman (508) 856-3056 [anne.bateman@umassmed.edu](mailto:anne.bateman@umassmed.edu)

Students in this group will be exploring the public health challenges facing some of the most vulnerable populations of the Commonwealth. The mission of LSH is to deliver compassionate inpatient and outpatient medical and psychiatric care to individuals requiring multi-disciplinary treatment and support which promotes health, well-being, rehabilitation and recovery. LSH is a major provider of ambulatory and inpatient care for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health in the metro-Boston area. Acute care services include comprehensive medical-surgical care, intensive care units, pulmonary care, dialysis services, geriatric care services and physical/medical rehabilitative support. Students in this group will learn about the demographics of this community and have opportunities to shadow a variety of providers to learn about the various services provided at this unique public hospital that provides a variety of services to those who are in need. The clerkship will be based at the LSH in Jamaica Plain and students will need to travel to the facility.

### **19. Oral Health – Greater Worcester County**

Robin Toft Klar (508) 856-5295 [robin.klar@umassmed.edu](mailto:robin.klar@umassmed.edu)

Hugh Silk [silkh@umhmc.org](mailto:silkh@umhmc.org)

Sheila Stille [stilles@umhmc.org](mailto:stilles@umhmc.org)

This is a new community health clerkship focusing on oral health and comprised of nursing, medical, and dental students. After a day of introduction to the epidemiology of oral health, role of prevention, and roles and responsibilities of each of the three professions, the group will divide into two groups (medical, nursing and dental) to focus on either children and primary prevention or on adults with developmental disabilities who require secondary and tertiary prevention. Students will travel within greater Worcester county and possibly one day group travel to Boston.

## **20. Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Health – Boston & Worcester**

Emily Ferrara (508) 856-5134 [emily.ferrara@umassmed.edu](mailto:emily.ferrara@umassmed.edu)

Heidi Holland (508) 583-2250 ext. 214 [hholland@hcsn.org](mailto:hholland@hcsn.org)

This clerkship will examine the unique health care concerns of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender communities. Many issues faced by the GLBT community stem from a reluctance to seek medical care and to share critical information with their providers due to real and perceived discrimination in the health care system. Efforts are underway in Massachusetts to address gaps in culturally appropriate care for the GLBT population. Students will travel to Boston and within Worcester County to visit programs and clinically shadow providers and advocates who serve adults, youth, and elders in Massachusetts. Students will have the opportunity to participate in a community service project in collaboration with a participating program. Discussions with GLBT patients and with providers who have extensive expertise in GLBT issues will be an integral aspect of the experience.

## **21. Learning Advocacy with the Urban Underserved – Central, MA**

Mattie Castiel (508) 829-2285 [castielm@ummhc.org](mailto:castielm@ummhc.org)

Advocacy in the underserved. In this group we will discuss how to create changes in our community to help those who can't. We will meet with people who can help use create those changes (i.e., politicians, foundations, etc). We will first visit and understand the community and then see what changes we can create to improve healthcare, living situations etc. We then can make a plan to see if we can start creating those changes.

## **22. Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) – Worcester & Central MA**

Jill Terrien (508) 856-6622 [jill.terrien@umassmed.edu](mailto:jill.terrien@umassmed.edu)

Leonard Morse, MD (508) 799-8193 [morsel@ci.worcester.ma.us](mailto:morsel@ci.worcester.ma.us)

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) along with local Departments of Public Health conducts a myriad of activities to keep communities well. This clerkship offers opportunities for medical and graduate nursing students interested in public health to work with local health departments with the following activities:

- Communicable disease case investigation
- Food safety
- Bioterrorism preparedness
- Site inspections
- Health education

Students participating in the MDPH clerkship might participate in any number of the following activities:

- Shadowing public health workers in above mentioned activities
- Visit to state laboratory
- Visit to Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency
- Seminars with various public health workers on timely topics
- Other opportunities suggested by MDPH workers

Cooperating agencies include:

- Worcester Department of Public Health: smoking cessation program, travel and immunization clinic, food inspection program, lead paint inspections, water testing and quality, pest control, HIV testing and counseling clinic, and animal control

Home base is the DPH at 25 Meade Street, Worcester.