**New Global Health Clinical and Research opportunities – announcing the UMMS partnership with the Academic Model Providing Access to Healthcare (AMPATH) Consortium in Eldoret, Kenya.**

**What is AMPATH?**

The Academic Model Providing Access to Healthcare (AMPATH) was formally created in 1997 as a partnership between Indiana University School of Medicine, Moi University School of Medicine (MUSM) and Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH) in the city of Eldoret in western Kenya. This collaboration has strengthened health service delivery in western Kenya by developing both US and African leaders in health care. As the HIV/AIDS pandemic threatened Kenya in the early 2000s other North American institutions joined Indiana University to help build a comprehensive and effective HIV/AIDS control systems. These North American and Kenyan collaborating institutions became known as the AMPATH Consortium.

Today, the AMPATH Consortium focuses on facilitating medical student and faculty exchange between Kenya and North American institutions, provides the highest quality clinical care to citizens in Western Kenya, and promotes research and training opportunities within the context of North American and African collaborations.

North American AMPATH Consortium members include Indiana University School of Medicine, Brown University School of Medicine, Duke University Medical Center (Hubert-Yeargan Center for Global Health), Lehigh Valley Hospital, Notre Dame University (Eck Institute for Global Health), Providence Portland Medical Center, Purdue University, University of Utah School of Medicine, University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine and University of Massachusetts Medical School.

**Opportunities for UMass students and faculty**

The new partnership between AMPATH and UMass will provide research opportunities for faculty as well as educational experiences for medical and graduate students. The Departments of Pediatrics, Internal Medicine, Surgery, Psychiatry and Emergency Medicine are engaged in various clinical and research projects in partnership with MTRH, MUSM and other collaborating AMPATH institutions.

Additionally, this new program offers exciting opportunities for students interested in global health to travel to Kenya during Advanced Study electives, Senior Scholars Research Projects or Capstone Research Projects. Third and fourth year medical students can spend up to two months of elective time living and training in Kenya under the direct supervision and guidance of UMMS-AMPATH faculty advisors. Students will learn about the current burden of disease facing Kenya and come to appreciate the challenges and creative solutions in providing healthcare in a limited-resource setting.

Students will also be able to work longitudinally on their Senior Scholars or Capstone Projects. The AMPATH Consortium represents a network of faculty mentors who are working in global health or related fields. Potential Capstone or Senior Scholars Projects could include research on various topics involved in Kenyan healthcare, ranging from infectious disease, immunology, oncology or epidemiology to topics addressing social justice, program administration or the use of medical technology in developing countries.

The UMMS-AMPATH partnership will enhance and expand UMMS research and training programs in global health, further prepare student trainees for careers in global health, and extend the AMPATH mission of “Leading with Care” across the world.
For more information about the UMMS-AMPATH partnership, opportunities or ways to get involved, contact the UMMS-AMPATH Director, Dr. Ann Moormann at ann.moormann@umassmed.edu.

More information:
AMPATH Kenya: http://www.ampathkenya.org/
“IU House” at AMPATH - living in El Doret, Kenya: http://www.ampathkenya.org/iu-house/
UMMS Capstone Project: http://www.umassmed.edu/Content.aspx?id=171698
UMMS Senior Scholars Project: http://www.umassmed.edu/Content.aspx?id=104332