UMMS Elective: Surgical experience serving vulnerable populations in developing countries

Course #: FC 405. International Medicine

Elective duration: 2 weeks

Elective Dates:
- Typically during the first week two weeks in August
- Dates in August 2015: week 1 (with Surgicorps) is from Sat. August 8, 2015 – Sat. August 15, 2015
  - week 2 is from Monday August 17, 2015 – Friday August 21, 2015
- Dates in August 2016: week 1 (with Surgicorps) is from Sat. August 6, 2016 – Sat. August 13, 2016
  - week 2 is tentatively from Monday August 15, 2016 – Friday August 19, 2016

Elective description:
This is a two-week fourth year clinical elective with Surgicorps International that allows students to gain an understanding of surgical care in an international setting. During the first week, the student will participate to the extent of his or her current training in surgical cases, typically including general surgery, plastic surgery and OB/GYN cases. The student will spend the second week reflecting upon the experience and creating a presentation on a medical topic of interest encountered during the trip. Additional or alternative topics for reflection, writing and creation of case presentations can be explored by the student and the elective faculty. For example, a student may seek to write and try to publish a case study instead of creating a presentation on a medical topic.

Elective goals:
1. Gain experience in delivering surgical care to disadvantaged individuals in countries served by Surgicorps International
2. Gain knowledge, experience, and understanding of how non-governmental non-profit organizations contribute to improving health of individuals in developing countries

Elective objectives:
1. Learn about surgical care of disadvantaged and vulnerable individuals through the mentorship and supervision of Surgicorps surgeons
2. Improve in the cultural competency of delivering care of individuals for vulnerable and disadvantaged areas
3. Reflect on the impact that an experience with Surgicorps International has on future career plans
4. Act as a peer mentor and educator of other medical students who are interested in global health and the delivery of surgical care to disadvantaged and vulnerable populations
5. Gain experience in delivering case presentations
6. Consider submitting a scholarly work related to the experience gained during the elective (which may include a case report, essay, or opinion piece) for publication

Host Supervisor: David Kim, MD. Surgicorps International

UMMS Elective Advisor: Michael Chin, MD. Director of the UMMS International Medical Education Program

Prerequisites:
1. Successfully complete 3rd year of medical school at UMMS
2. Selection by Dr. David Kim to participate in the first week of the elective
3. Selection by Dr. Michael Chin to participate in the second week of the elective.
4. Prior to the elective, arrange for two meetings/conference calls with Dr. Chin during the 2nd week of the elective. These meetings/conference calls are typically held on the 1st and 3rd day of the 2nd week of the elective.

5. Prior to the elective, meet the necessary approvals from UMMS for the elective and for the travel, similar to that which is required of other global health experiences done by UMMS medical students. This typically includes:
   a. Confirming that an institutional agreement (i.e., a Letter of Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding) between UMMS and Surgicorps International will be in place during the elective.
   b. Submitting a Global Health Elective Request Form (GHER) to OUME, and getting approval.
   c. Completing an OGH on-line International Travel Registration Form
   d. Submitting a 1-page Pre-Travel Authorization Form to OUME
   e. Getting approval from the UMMS OGH for travel

Deliverables:

1. **1-page Elective Evaluation Form**: The student will request that Dr. Kim complete a standard 1-page Elective Evaluation Form. This evaluation must be completed in order for the student to get credit for the elective.

2. **The brief on-line Global Health Trip Report**:
   a. During the start of the 2nd week of the elective, the student will complete a draft version of the Global Health Trip Report, and email it to Dr. Chin for review.
   b. By the end of the elective, the student will submit the final report on-line. The primary purpose of the Global Health Trip report is to help future students as they are looking for global health opportunities. All past Global Health Trip Reports are accessible on the UMMS website, via the [Lamar Soutter Library eScholarship@UMMS webpage](http://library.umms.edu/).  

3. **A clinical case presentation**:
   a. Before the meeting/conference call with Dr. Chin (which typically occurs at the end of the 3rd day of the 2nd week of the elective), the student will email Dr. Chin a draft version of a power point presentation of a clinical case, typically related to a case experienced during the first week of the elective. The power point presentation typically takes 15 to 30 minutes to present and can follow the template provided by Dr. Chin.
   b. By the end of the elective the student will email Dr. Chin a final power point presentation with voice narration. The final presentation may be used by UMMS students and faculty in other global health learning forums.

4. **A brief reflection essay (typically 2 to 4 pages)**. By the end of the elective, the student will email Dr. Chin a brief essay that expands on the following two components of the Global Health Trip Report:
   i. **Reflection about the global health experience**: Describe what you learned about the country and culture that you visited. (Topics that you may discuss: lifestyle and living conditions, migration of immigrants to the US, religious and cultural beliefs and practices, health beliefs or practices, diseases or health conditions, health care systems, immigrants from this country who now are living in the US.)
   
   ii. **Reflection about the impact of the global health experience on you**: You may discuss (a) what you learned about yourself or your own country / culture, (b) the impact that the experience had on you, and/or (c) what you learned from this experience.

   Ideally, the reflection piece should include at least two photos.
5. **Updates to the Global Health Opportunities web page**: By the end of the elective, the student will email Dr. Chin proposed edits to the section of the [Global Health Opportunities web page](#) that describes this surgical elective. The purpose is to be able to provide future UMMS students a convenient place to learn about this elective.

6. **Contribution to the annual Global Health Calendar (optional)**: By the end of the elective, the student will email Dr. Chin with two power point slides that may be used for a future version of the [annual Global Health Calendar](#), which is used to both highlight learning & service done by UMMS students in the area of global health, and to educate others about global health issues. A template for making a contribution to the Global Health Calendar will be provided to the student, so that the contribution typically takes less than an hour of effort.

Note: The deliverables mentioned above may also be shared with Dr. Kim.

**Evaluation:** The student will be evaluated based on the following things:

1. Elective Evaluation Form (completed by Dr. David Kim or appropriate person from Surgicorps International)
2. The deliverables mentioned in the section above