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**Background**

The Emory Global Health Case Competition (EGHCC) is an innovative student learning program that brings together students from multiple disciplines to address a critical global health challenge in both a competitive and collaborative environment. The EGHCC borrows its format from business school case competitions where student teams formulate recommendations for a business case, but the EGHCC is unique in that it requires an interdisciplinary approach to solve real-world global health challenges.

The competition is open to both undergraduate and graduate students from a wide variety of disciplines who work for one week in multidisciplinary teams to address a global health challenge.

The competition culminates with presentations to an expert panel of judges, which evaluates the proposals and determines award winners. Winning presentations are typically those that present astutely synthesized, feasible, sustainable, and culturally appropriate solutions to the case problems.

The Institute’s Student Advisory Committee (SAC), a multidisciplinary group of engaged students representing every school at Emory University, and its Faculty Advisors have developed and written the case subjects for each of the five competitions the Institute has hosted.

**Inaugural Competition**

The first Emory Global Health Case Competition, held in spring 2009, was initiated and coordinated by the Emory Global Health Institute’s SAC. Forty Emory students comprising eight multidisciplinary teams presented their best strategies for alleviating severe acute childhood malnutrition in the Oromiya region of Ethiopia.

**Expansion**

**2010 Competition**

In 2010, the Institute expanded the competition regionally by including three teams from guest universities located in the Southeastern United States. This resulted in 12 multidisciplinary teams developing recommendations for the mock government of Gujarat, India on how to reduce tobacco-related health and economic burdens while recognizing that tobacco product manufacturing was one of the state’s largest industries.

**2011 Competition**

In 2011, the Institute and its SAC took the competition national and included 12 guest multidisciplinary teams from: Cornell, Dartmouth, Duke, Princeton, Rice, Texas A&M, UAB, UCSF, UPenn, USC, Vanderbilt, and Yeshiva. These teams, along with eight Emory teams, developed programmatic priorities for the East Africa Regional Office of the UN’s High Commissioner for Refugees, which had just received a 40% budget cut and was responsible for the welfare of 800,000 refugees living in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda.

**Going International**

**2012 Competitions**

In February 2012, the Emory Global Health Institute hosted its fourth Emory Global Health Case Competition. The 2012 Intramural competition brought 12 Emory teams together to address the issue of childhood obesity in Mexico.

The judges included program directors from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, representatives from the Social Responsibility department at the Coca-Cola Company, partners from local law firms, and a member of the Mexican Ministry of Health.

In March 2012, EGHII hosted its fifth Emory Global Health Case Competition. The 2012 International competition brought multidisciplinary teams together from 25 different universities to address the issue of health and social disparities in Sri Lanka.

In addition to the 19 teams from across the United States, the International competition included teams from: Mexico, Canada, Colombia, Israel, and the UK.

**Impact on Students**

“The case competition was an exceptionally valuable experience. It was a great opportunity for me to explore a global health problem from all angles and disciplines, and synthesize expertise from my teammates’ various fields into a productive and feasible solution. While this was a hypothetical exercise, it’s exactly how global health solutions should and will need to be addressed in the real world. There are so many pressing issues out there; developing solutions requires diverse and flexible thinking.”

-Jennifer Richards
Rodina School of Public Health, 2012
Member of 2012 First place Team at the Intramural and International Emory Global Health Case Competitions

“I am convinced that participating in the Emory Global Health Case Competition has had a lasting impact on the group of students from Rice University. For many of us, this was the first time we had been asked to apply such a diverse set of tools to such a complicated and meaningful problem. After the competition, I felt as if we had gained life-long skills and insights.”

-Josh Ozer
Rice University
Member of 2011 Innovation Award Winning Team

“I had an unbelievable time participating in the Emory Global Health Case Competition. The best part of the experience, though, was definitely the people, and it is also what made the challenges and recommendations presented so interesting. Although I am a senior at the College and have been here for four years, this is the first time I had the opportunity to meet and interact with students from Rollins and from the law school. This experience really opened up my view of Emory.”

-Svetoslava Mitskova
Emory College, 2010
Member of 2010 First place Team

**2013 Case Competitions**

The dates are set for the 2013 Emory Global Health Case Competitions! We hope to see you at our events this spring.

-February 2, 2013 — Intramural Competition
-March 23, 2013 — International Competition

**Acknowledgements**

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