



Emory Global Health Connection

Building Bridges for Better Health

February 2019

Clinical Perspectives in Global Health Course

An Interprofessional Approach to Medical Education

Global health education is in high demand by trainees across the United States, and Emory University is no exception. Clinical Perspectives in Global Health (CPGH) is a novel and innovative elective course offered to second-year medical students as part of their M2 Foundations Elective. Launched in fall 2017, it introduces global health concepts to medical students during their pre-clinical years, and students achieve core global health competencies through didactic sessions, skills workshops, and relevant clinical experiences.



The Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH) has identified 13 competency domains applicable to 21st century global health practitioners (Jogerst, 2015). The CPGH elective

course was designed to provide students with an introduction across these domains with an emphasis on global burden of disease, globalization of health and health care, ethics, and health equity.

Elective directors and guest lecturers lead didactic sessions and workshops. Thus far, CPGH instructors have had faculty appointments and/or professional affiliations at the Emory University School of Medicine, School of Nursing, the Rollins School of Public Health, Emory Center for Ethics, the Emory Global Health Institute, and the CDC. CPGH instructors are encouraged to build connections with students for future collaboration in research and global health-related projects (i.e., during the School of Medicine Discovery phase). Residents in the pediatric and internal medicine global health tracks co-lead the CPGH's global health skills workshops, which provide health care delivery simulations and interactive clinical experiences to complement the didactic sessions.

One example of a course session from this past cohort began with a lecture on non-communicable



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diseases, followed by a rotation of workshop stations focused on nutrition assessment in low-resource settings. In another workshop, students rotated through stations in the SIM lab, each focusing on a different emergency care strategy used in low-resource settings.

Additionally, CPGH students participate in at least two “local-global” clinical experiences for a minimum of two hours each. Students may choose to complete the clinical requirements at either the Clarkston Community Health Center, the Emory Travel Medicine Clinic, or other Emory-affiliated health fairs.

In addition to second-year medical students, the course was made available to undergraduate students pursuing the global health minor and nursing students in 2018. This expansion allows students to collaborate and share experiences across disciplines. According to Associate Director of the Emory Global Health Institute and Professor of Pediatrics and Global Health, Dr. Parminder Suchdev, “it is a privilege to work with students and faculty across disciplines to spark ethical and sustainable engagement in global health.

Organizing and teaching this course has been one of the highlights of my time at Emory.”

In fall 2018, Dr. Suchdev was awarded the *Emory School of Medicine Dean’s Imagine, Innovate, and Impact (I³) Education grant*. Along with co-investigators, Drs. Brittany Murray, Federico Palacio, Elizabeth Downes, and Michelle Lampl, this one-year grant will allow improvement and expansion of the CPGH course. These changes will occur by reframing the curriculum based on interprofessional competencies, and establishing a global health pathway for health sciences students in the School of Medicine, Nell Hodgson School of Nursing, and other programs within the University. The 2019 CPGH course begins in Fall 2019.

