The Global Health Pathway (GHP): An elective four-year program to train and support future leaders and providers in global health

Michael Chin MD, Colleen Burnham MBA, Carly Eressy, Melissa Fischer MD, MEd

BACKGROUND
Starting in the 2013-2014 Academic Year, the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS) began to redesign the Global Health Pathway (GHP), which is a four-year program that trains and supports medical students to be future leaders and providers in global health. The GHP selects medical students through an application process at the start of their medical school training and provides them with longitudinal curriculum and opportunities to gain experience in clinical, research, public health and cultural experiences with underserved populations in two major categories: those currently living outside of the U.S. or those that are living inside the U.S. with recent international origins, such as immigrant or refugee populations.

GLOBAL HEALTH IMMERSION EXPERIENCE
The Global Health Immersion Experience is a core component of the GHP curriculum. During this intensive six to eight week opportunity in the summer between 1st and 2nd year of medical school training, GHP students have an in-depth experience in learning and applying the principals of global health, typically at one of the Selected GHP Sites that have been approved by the UMMS Office of Medical Education (OUME) and the GHP.

CURRICULUM
Highlights of the GHP curriculum include the following:

**Year 1:**
- Seminar sessions, including case presentations & journal club

**Summer between 1st and 2nd Year:**
- Global Health Immersion Experience

**Year 2:**
- Global Health Poster Session, Seminar sessions, Service Project
- Select a Capstone Project on a global health topic

**Year 3:**
- Opportunities for 1-week Flexible Electives (FCEs) in global health

**Year 4:**
- Complete a Capstone Project on a global health topic
- Global health elective(s)

GLOBAL HEALTH SERVICE PROJECT
Featured below is one page from the 2016 Global Health Calendar which was produced by 2nd year GHP students and had two purposes:

1. To highlight and raise awareness about the global health learning and service activities of GHP students.
2. To raise awareness of various global health issues.

The proceeds from sales of the global health calendars went towards a global health service project being planned by the Class of 2018 GHP students.

Achievements of GHP Students
GHP students have demonstrated leadership and impressive achievements during their medical school careers including awards, publications, and service projects related to global health. Below are a few highlights of some of their achievements; even more can be found on the GHP’s website:

- **Spring 2016:** Melanie DuBois (as a 4th year GHP student) received and participated in the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship, which included a three-month, French-speaking clinical immersion in pediatrics at the Albert Schweitzer hospital in Lambaréné,Gabon.
- **April 2016:** Laura Santos and Emily Erkkinen (as 2nd year GHP students) were co-authors on a case report that was published by the British Medical Journal, and was titled ‘HIV-associated dementia in the Dominican Republic: a consequence of stigma, domestic abuse and limited health literacy’.
- **March 2015:** Vanessa Rooney (as a 2nd year GHP student) received an honorable mention for her essay titled, ‘The meaning of impact. Vanessa, and her entry into the 2015 CUGH Trainees Reflection Essay Contest, were recognized at the 2015 Annual Conference for the Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH).

Selected GHP Sites
In the 2016-2017 Academic Year, 1st year UMMS medical students applying to the GHP can select between several Selected GHP Sites that are available for Global Health Immersion Experiences in July/August of 2017, during the summer between 1st and 2nd year of their medical school training.

The map below shows the expected Selected GHP Sites for the 2016-2017 Academic Year. There will be introductory sessions at the start of the academic year for interested students to learn more about these sites from UMMS students who have completed Immersion Experiences, and from the UMMS faculty who are involved in these Selected GHP Sites.

![Selected GHP Sites Map]

Global Health Poster Session
The Global Health Poster Session is a yearly event where students in the GHP showcase the learning and service activities that they completed during their Global Health Immersion Experience. Posters can be viewed on-line at the GHP’s website:

http://umassmed.edu/oume/student-resources/optional-enrichment-electives-ooe/pathway-program/

Global Health Calendar 2016

Next Steps for Interested Students
- **1st year UMMS medical students who are interested in applying to the GHP can visit the website for the International Medical Education Program (IMEP) and the Global Health Pathway (GHP) at this address:**
  http://umassmed.edu/oume/International-Medical-Education/
- All members of the UMMS community (including medical and nursing students, residents and faculty) are invited to attend the global health speaker series that is organized by the Global Health Topics in Action elective. Details of this student-led optional enrichment elective can be found on the website for the IMEP and GHP.

Acknowledgments
The GHP has been made possible by the support of many contributors, including:

The UMMS School of Medicine which has provided primary support for the GHP through the UMMS Dean’s office.

The Global Health Advisory Committee which consists of UMMS faculty members from a variety of different disciplines including the departments of Family Medicine, Infectious Diseases, Pediatrics, and the School of Nursing.

Additional key supporters and contributors including the UMMS Office of Global Health, the UMMS Office of Student Affairs, UMMS Elective Advisors, and partners at the Selected GHP Sites and at other Host Institutions receiving UMMS medical students.

Photo to the left: UMMS students Allison Earon and Anna Handorf (2nd and 4th from left, respectively) with Research Coordinators and a Village Health Worker, during an Immersion Experience in which they tested mobile-based technology to screen for atrial fibrillation in rural India (2015)