Academic Skills Building through Global Health

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What is Academic Skills Building through Global Health?

Academic Skills Building through Global Health is a program designed for first year medical students enrolled in global health preceptorships at UTMB. UTMB sends approximately 50 first year medical students on this rotation every year. The program requires students to work with international collaborators to develop a scholarly project to complete while on an international rotation. Students then develop an abstract and present a poster at the annual UTMB Global Health Education Symposium. Students are assigned a mentor for their project and complete four online modules. The module topics include: Developing a Scholarly Project, Implementing a Scholarly Project Abroad, Developing an Abstract, and Developing a Poster.

Why is it important?

Medical curriculum both in the United States and abroad is lacking in the critical area of educating students in the design, implementation, and dissemination of a scholarly project. Yet increasingly students are expected to perform these tasks. Research exposure has been shown to increase the likelihood a student will follow an academic medicine career track, have better employment opportunities, develop advanced critical thinking skills and reasoning, and will improve research activity throughout their career (Murdoch et al., 2010; Weston, Mullan, & McMennan, 2010). Commissions from across the globe, tasked with improving medical education, have cited increased research skills as a primary goal (Burgyone, O’Flynn & Boylan, 2010).

For medical educators, it is important to develop sound research skills in our students in order for them to remain competitive and become able-minded clinician-scientists. Medical students are urged to complete research electives and projects during their undergraduate careers to make them more competitive for residency placement. Yet there is no formal curricular mechanism in place to teach medical students the skills required to develop, implement, and disseminate findings.

Evolution of Academic Skills Building Project

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<td>Rotation Activities</td>
<td>Clinical Shadowing/Bench Research</td>
<td>Scholarly Project</td>
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<td>Training</td>
<td>Global Health Lectures (Broad topics/pre-travel)</td>
<td>Global Health Preparations (pre-travel)</td>
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<td>Health and Safety Lecture</td>
<td>Global Health Preparations (pre-travel)</td>
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<td>1 Hour lecture on developing an abstract and poster (post-travel)</td>
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<td>Outcomes</td>
<td>Mostly volunteer activities, not scholarly work</td>
<td>Not enough training on developing abstracts and posters</td>
<td>Fewer problems than 2011-2012, but still many questions to staff on developing abstracts and posters</td>
<td>Much better abstracts and posters than previous year</td>
<td>Program implemented due to time constraints</td>
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Examples of Student Project Topics

**2013 Topics**

Cardiometabolic Slide Effects Associated with 2nd Line Antiretroviral Therapy at the Mbagathi District Hospital Comprehensive Care Clinic

Effects of the Quantity of Antenatal Malaria Prophylaxis on Birth Weight and Maternal Anemia in Ghana

The Prevalence of Depression in Adult Patients Undergoing Long Term Hemodialysis Treatments at Buen Samaritano Hospital

Recombinase Polymerase Amplification: A new low-cost Molecular Method to Diagnose Fasciollis in Low Resource Settings

The Use of Physical Therapy to Manage Leprosy Deformities

Cumulative Malaria Trends of Prevalence, Procedure, and Management in Nakayibe Hospital, Rukungiri, Uganda

Regulatory T cell Functionality in Strongyloides Stercoralis infection

Almost all Student Projects were completed successfully with few problems throughout.

**2014 Topics**

To assess beliefs, related to the adoption of former street children, among community members around Mauna, Kenya in summer 2014

Baseline study of prehospital care in Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic

Baseline surveillance for a water and sanitation hygiene (WASH) Community Health Club in the Bateyes of the Dominican Republic

Evaluating the educational effectiveness on nutrition and public health practices of El Comedor

Factors associated with stillbirth in the Greater Accra Region in 2014: A cross sectional study

HIV/TB Clinical Mentorship Program increases clinical detection of smear negative TB in Kenya

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Prevalence of Chikungunya virus in febrile patients in the Dominican Republic

Ambient air pollution and acute respiratory infections in Ecuadorian children

Module Screenshots

References


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