NEW MEDICAL ROTATION IN KENYA

Early this year, five MSU medical students spent six weeks working in the 308-bed PCEA Chogoria Hospital in Kenya. Led by cardiologist Dr. David MacIntosh, a 1976 MSUCOM alumnus, the students saw uncommon medical patterns, gained experience in the HIV clinic, and accompanied mobile HIV clinics to rural areas while experiencing healthcare delivery outside the U.S.

This was the first year of what will be an annual program available to MSU medical students. Dr. MacIntosh’s relationship with PCEA Hospital goes back to 1977 when he spent a year there following his internship. After returning to the hospital three years ago, Dr. MacIntosh began thinking about developing an international medicine tropical disease course for MSU students.

“PCEA does not have the advanced technology available in the west, so students are able to see how medicine is practiced without all the sophistication we have in the U.S.,” MacIntosh said.

“Students are able to sharpen their skills in physical examinations and see many diseases not commonly seen in the U.S.,”

“... the daily morning education seminars were very helpful as there were always Kenyan residents present who offered additional knowledge of local presentation and prevalence of diseases,” said fourth-year MSUCOM student Aimee Leisure-Martins.

MSU-IH AND YUCATAN PARTNER IN HYPERBARIC MEDICINE

by Prof. Reza Nassiri

With a capacity to accommodate up to 23 patients at one time, this big hyperbaric chamber, directed by Dr. Cuauhtemoc Sanchez of the Yucatan Department of Health, will be located within the new medical center at the University Hospital Augustin O’Horan in Merida, Mexico. Used to treat trauma, burns, stroke, subaquatic and hyperbaric issues, wounds, pain, palliative care, and toxicity, the triple lock chamber measures 54 x 10 ft (18 x 3 m). It is the first of its kind in Latin America and one of the five largest on the American continents.

The state of Yucatan is often considered the medical center for southeast Mexico and bordering countries like Guatemala and Belize, and Hospital O’Horan has been serving the community, especially the underprivileged, for the past 106 years. Developed through the efforts of the IIH and its director, Prof. Reza Nassiri, MSU now has a unique partnership in Merida in hyperbaric medicine which will provide a valuable opportunity for the international training of MSU medical students and residents.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May

• Study abroad course in the Dominican Republic - Pre-clinical Observation, Culture & Medicine

July

• International AIDS Conference in Washington, D.C.

August

• Study abroad course in St. Petersburg - Clinical & Cultural Experiences in Russia

September

• Osteopathic International Alliance annual conference in Paris, France

For more information: reza.nassiri@hc.msu.edu

The new hyperbaric chamber unit in Merida, led by Dr. Sanchez, will be able to treat up to 23 patients at a time. It is the first of its kind in Latin America and one of the five largest hyperbaric chambers on the American continents.

The mission of the Institute of International Health is to establish global health research programming, to implement health development projects, and to work toward positioning Michigan State University as a leader in addressing and improving today’s global health challenges. – Reza Nassiri
WORKING WITH OUR STRATEGIC PARTNERS

This past year, the Institute of International Health continued to advance its partnerships with institutions in Korea, Mexico, Brazil and the Dominican Republic. The Institute’s goal is to develop strategic linkages that will strengthen global health research programming and align international engagement among students, faculty and staff.

A formal agreement established in 2011 with Jaseng Hospital of Korean Eastern Medicine in Seoul is fostering international academic cooperation, including the exchange of research as well as faculty and research scholars in osteopathic and Korean traditional medicine.

“Jaseng Hospital offers an opportunity for MSU and scientists to explore the mechanisms of Korean oriental medicine,” said Reza Nassiri, IIH director. “We expect to develop future scientific collaboration with our colleagues in Korea. The goal is to exchange knowledge in osteopathic principles which will strengthen our ability to secure external funds and the dissemination of new knowledge.”

In Mexico a strategic partnership that has emerged between MSUCOM and the Yucatan Department of Health will enable MSUCOM-affiliated osteopathic physicians to apply for clinical practice in the state of Yucatan. As an indication of the importance of this growing relationship, Dean William Strampel is in the process of donating 12 hemodialysis units to Hospital O’Horan, a reference care medical center for the state of Yucatan.

“A key role of the Institute of International Health is to bring together experts across the university who can contribute to the research we are doing abroad in health and nutrition,” said Jeffrey Riedinger, dean of International Studies and Programs. “We seek an overlap of IIH and our world area centers,” he said. “With such collaborations MSU is uniquely positioned to offer the blend of thematic and world area focus that enables us and our partners to really make a difference.”

IIH also facilitated rotations for our international partners. A few recent examples include:

• January 2012: Maíra Charone, a Brazilian student from Universidade Federal do Pará, Belém, Brazil, spent a week shadowing at McLaren-Greater Lansing hospital. Dr. Charone stated that this experience, although brief, was by far one of the most constructive and formative experiences of her journey.

• October 2011: Dr. Rafaela Perez, a physician from the Dominican Republic, participated in a month-long shadowing experience. Dr. Perez spent one week at the MSU Clinical Center, one week in the Ingham County Health Department and two weeks on various rotations at Sparrow Hospital. Dr. Perez was overwhelmed by the education and experiences she had during this time.

• July 2011: A fifth-year medical student from the Universidade Federal do Pará in Brazil, Camila Yoneszava de Sousa, participated in a four-week rotation at Bay Regional Medical Center.

Sending MSU medical students abroad is equally important. Examples include:

• Jillian Geyer, second year CHM student, conducted research with the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Belém, Brazil. Student Doctor Geyer interviewed patients and randomized POC-CD4 counts, and the groups characterized from a group of patients with human T-cell lymphotropic virus type 1.

• Jason Samons, MSUCOM III, conducted research on leprosy in partnership with SRM University College of Medicine in Chennai, India, facilitated by Dr. Nassiri and Prof. Mohankumar. It has been published in the peer-reviewed journal, Advances in Orthopedics.

• First-year MSUCOM students, Felipe and Pamela Cameroamortegui, will conduct research on the collection and distribution of HIV health information, scheduled to be performed at a local community clinic in the Dominican Republic this summer.

On the faculty side, Dr. Pilar Gill, associate professor in the College of Social Work, conducted a study on socio-behavioral determinants of HIV patients at the Boca Chica Community Clinic in the Dominican Republic and has submitted an abstract to the Society for Social Work and Research 17th Annual Conference.

We’re working with a four-pronged approach to spread the benefits of osteopathic medicine across the globe:

• Science: Through our research, we are learning about health issues in other nations, which help us address them, and how totranslate knowledge into positive change. We are also benefitting from partnerships and exchanges with scientists overseas, learning more through collaboration.

• Education: International electives and exchanges, didactics, and learning research in such settings enrich student experience. We also provide opportunities for students overseas to come to Michigan for educational experiences.

• Service: Medical service electives for faculty, residents and students are making an enormous impact among some of the world’s most vulnerable people. We have partnered with a number of the MSUCOM family volunteer their time and expertise for this purpose.

• Politics: Building trust with government officials and other leaders at the local, state and national levels facilitates all of our efforts – from achieving licensure for O.D.s to gain greater credibility to implement programs.

IIIH WORKING TO ADVANCE HIV PREVENTION CAPACITY-BUILDING

by Prof. Reza Nassiri

Prof. Reza Nassiri, director of IIH, presented at the Global Risk Forum (GRF) One Health Summit 2012, held in Davos, Switzerland, February 19-22. Nassiri’s “HIV Prevention Capacity-Building in Haiti and Dominican Republic” was accepted for oral presentation at the conference. His abstract, “Global Health Crises Caused by the Collision of Biological and Cultural Evolution: Pre-Natal Influences on Acute and Chronic Disease Later in Life,” authored by Dr. James Trosky, MSU professor of pediatrics and human development, was accepted for poster presentation. Nassiri co-authored this second abstract with Dr. Trosky and Prof. Guieseppe Carruba of the University of Palermo Medical Center in Palermo, Italy.

The GRF One Health Summit 2012 provided a forum for an integrative approach to human health management, highlighting the interconnectedness of human, animal and environmental health with food safety and security. The summit brought together experts and leaders from international organizations to share knowledge, exchange information and discuss best practices.

Nassiri’s expertise in global health issues, in particular, poverty-related diseases, clinical pharmacology of antiretroviral agents, and HIV prevention and control. In collaboration with Prof. John Kaneene of the University of Palermo Medical Center in Palermo, Italy, the Institute is looking into grant opportunities to train postdoctoral professionals from India, Uganda and the Dominican Republic in numerous areas of communicable diseases, advancing global prevention techniques and education.

In partnership with MSU’s Global Food Platform and the College of Veterinary Medicine, IIH has invited Dr. Walter Amman, President of the Global Health Risk Forum, and Dr. M. Maged Younes, current director of WHO’s Food Security, to travel the Amazon River on the Luz Na Amazon medical boat to deliver birthing kits to remote villages.

THREE MSU COLLEGES PARTICIPATE IN BRAZIL TROPICAL MEDICINE COURSE

by Prof. Reza Nassiri

Students from MSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine, College of Human Medicine and College of Nursing participated in the winter break study abroad course in Brazil coordinated and led by IIH. The annual course, “Health Exposure Experience,” takes place in Belém in the eastern Amazon region and provides MSU health students with the opportunity to observe and learn about pathogens not common in the U.S. They study the Brazilian healthcare system by interacting with Brazilian physicians, nurses and medical residents in a teaching hospital, community clinics, and riverine Amazon villages.

Developed three years ago by Dr. Reza Nassiri, director of IIH, the course exposes MSU health students to Brazilian culture and healthcare practices while enabling the students to serve the poor eastern Amazon communities that they visit. The final day of the course, the group traveled down the Amazon River in a muddy boat, reaching the remote, impoverished villages most in need of health care. Equipped with examination tables, a laboratory and a pharmacy, the boat – Luz Na Amazon – enabled the students to observe how community healthcare is provided by the Brazilian healthcare practitioners. Students had an opportunity to interact with their Brazilian counterparts to discuss global health issues and to get to know about medical curricula in Brazil and the United States. This program also provided students with afternoon lectures delivered by Brazilian professors in Barros Barreto teaching hospital and UFPA Institute of Tropical Medicine.