

## **MEDI 7003: GLOBAL HEALTH ELECTIVE**

### **Preparation and Planning Pointers**

#### **Pre-trip Preparation:**

- Review personal motivations and goals for pursuing global health experience
  - Possible goals include enhancing clinical skills, providing service in a resource-limited area, increasing knowledge in medical problems associated with poverty, deepening cultural insights, improving language skills
- Identify desired outcomes of experience
- Learn as much as possible about the host country, including their political structure, population, socioeconomic status, geography, culture, religions, language, and the medical problems.
- Consider impact you wish to have on host country, what you will “leave behind.” Consider which community needs you might be able to address during your time there.
- Remind yourself of your own biases and remember to be open to new ideas and different approaches.
- We recommend “Professionalism 101: How to be Professional and Act Ethically when Abroad” – see below.
- Review definition of duties and responsibilities for rotation with host program
- Consider your tolerance level for the following situations, and adjust your experience accordingly:
  - Travel uncertainties and risks, different living and dietary conditions, health risks, potential challenges related to limited ability to provide quality care to all patients, lack of technological resources
- Clarify language expectations
- Review of US Department of State travel safety guidelines as well as passport, travel visa and work permit requirements- should begin 6 mo prior to trip
- Attend travel clinic for vaccinations, and prophylactic medications
- We recommend the UT Medicine travel clinic at the MARC (210-450-9800)
- Review of requirements related to medical licensure/ registration
- Review the WHO Guidelines for Pharmacologic donations  
<http://apps.who.int/medicinedocs/en/d/Jwhozip52e/>
- Obtain health insurance and evacuation coverage – see next page
- Plan for communications with home & Center