Draft, April 8th 2018

**UNIVERSIDAD DE ANTIOQUIA, FACULTAD DE MEDICINA, MEDELLIN, COLOMBIA**

**SUMMER ROTATION FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS FROM RUTGERS-RWJMS**

**Specific Dates:**

The rotation will start on June 11 and ends on July 09 2018

**Number of Students:**

Not to exceed 8 students each year

**Coordinators:**

Dr. Julián Franco – Coordinator for International Relations, Facultad de Medicina Universidad de Antioquia

Dr. Javier I Escobar – Associate Dean for Global Health, Rutgers-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

**Requirements:**

1. To truly benefit from the experience, at least an intermediate level of proficiency in Spanish (B1 level) is required.
2. Complete standard application form (from website)
3. Send curriculum vitae in Spanish
4. Send copy of valid passport and documentation of vaccines.
5. Health insurance policy
6. Formal approval by council, Facultad de Medicina, Universidad de Antioquia and also by Hospital Universitario San Vicente de Paul-Fundacion, for the academic and clinical components of the rotation.

**Arrival in Medellin:**

You will arrive at Aeropuerto Internacional José María Córdoba, in Rionegro. This is the main airport serving the city of Medellin and surrounding areas. It is located about 30 miles away from city center. The trip by car takes between 45-60 minutes.

Approximate cost of transportation to/from airport:

* Taxi = $ 25 USD
* Uber = $ 24 USD
* Shared Taxi (4 people): approximate cost = $ 6 USD
* Bus = $ 3 USD (not recommended)

**Transportation in Medellin:**

Within the metropolitan área, there is an excellent public transportation network that connects the various neighborhoods of the city. The Metro is a modern system, clean, efficient, with 34 stations located within the city and surrounds, with a cost of less than 1 USD per trip. It is integrated and properly connected to ‘metrocable’ a system of cable cars that serves the mountainous communities and also to ‘metroplus’, fast buses that reach most neighborhoods. There are also bicycle lanes in many of the roads and also bikes for rent in many areas.

We suggest that you check the webpage for the metro system: <https://www.metrodemedellin.gov.co/>

Also, EnCicla: <http://www.encicla.gov.co/> for the system of rental bicycles.

You can also check the various routes in google maps (showing the integrated system of transportation in the city) or the app for the METRO that you can find in the App store or in GooglePlay.

All the public transportation systems can be accessed utilizing the CIVICA card, that you can buy by showing your ID (passport)

We will try to have a peer (a local medical student) who will initially guide you through this process.

**Housing Arrangements:**

Housing will be arranged with host families (families of students at the University) who will provide room and board (breakfast dinner, laundry), access to kitchen and refrigerator in case you want to prepare your own meals. Families will help with the cultural immersion and provide orientation on the city including transportation and safety. The estimated cost will be $ 200 USD per week for each student.

**Passport and Visa:**

While US citizens do not need a visa to enter Colombia, you will need to present, at the immigration post when entering the country, an official letter of invitation from Universidad de Antioquia supporting your visit. They will stamp your passport with a PIP2 (student)/ or a PIP6 (academic faculty) seal.

You should get this letter from us before you depart for your trip. If you have not received it, please contact us as soon as possible!

Note: You should not enter the country as a tourist under any circumstances. You need to present the official letter that designates your status (student or faculty) upon entry, if you want to participate in any academic or clinical activity.

**Currency:**

The Colombian currency is the Colombian peso. Currently, the exchange rate is around 2,800 pesos for 1 USD.

You will be responsible to cover the cost of lunch daily, as well as transportation and personal expenses.

Note: Colombian stores and businesses only accept Colombian currency (cash) or credit cards.

You can change US dollars at exchange offices (passport required). You can also get Colombian currency (cash) at ATM machines.

**Vaccines:**

Certificates of vaccination for Hepatitis B, chickenpox, measles, are required. No other specific vaccines are required to travel to Colombia

**Dress Code:**

Casual dress can be worn for courses and other activities within the university. However, white coats and IDs are required in the hospital and clinical settings.

**Recommendations for miscellaneous practical issues:**

Weather: Medellin’s weather is temperate and relatively humid, with and average temperature of 22° C (about 72 degrees Fahrenheit), for which Medellin is popularly called “the city of eternal spring”. Most days are partly cloudy, alternating sunlight and shade, and a daily temperature that ranges between 12°C y 31°C.

What to Pack? -- Raincoat, light sweater, umbrella; passport and contact information;

needed medications; suntan lotion; comfortable shoes and clothing; white coats for hospital and clinical activities; swimwear and most importantly, an open mind!

**Security (safety) recommendations:**

Medellín suffers from the usual problems that affect other large cities globally. While security is far better than it was in previous decades, you are strongly encouraged to follow the precautions and security rules outlined below, so that risks can be minimized:

* If you need transportation, please make sure you call a taxi that is reliable, using the Easy Taxi o Uber apps in your cellular phone. Taxicabs from the company called ‘Flota Bernal’ (+574) 444-8882) are also quite reliable. Your host family can be also a good source to recommend reliable transportation.
* Use public transportation (METRO)
* Avoid carrying your passport with you. We recommend that you make a copy to bring with you. Do not openly display jewelry or other valuables.
* Keep your personal items in a secure place, particularly when walking in public or using public transportation.
* For emergencies, dial the number 123
* Travel insurance (Assist Card) is recommended as a protection for risks, medical emergencies and potential losses.

The Universidad de Antioquia cannot be held responsible for losses or other damages to your personal property.

**Important Contact Information:**

The office that coordinates international activities for the medical school is located at:

Facultad de Medicina, Bloque 32 – Edificio Manuel Uribe Ángel

Carrera 51D No 62-29. Oficina 301 Extensión Tel. (574) 219-6088

The office of international relations of the Universidad de Antioquia is located at:

Edificio de Extensión – Universidad de Antioquia

Calle 70 No 52-72. Oficina 605 Tel. (574) 219-5210 / (574) 2198212

The international representatives you can contact are:

Julián Franco Pérez: (+57) 3014719142 E-mail: relacionesintermedicina@udea.edu.co

Santiago López Álvarez (+57) 3105376639 E-mail: investigacioninter@udea.edu.co

**Budget Estimate:**

The approximate cost of the 4-week program to each student is:

* Food and Incidentals: $ 10 USD daily (total 300 USD)
* Transportation (Metro): $ 0.79 USD daily (total 47 USD month)
* Transportation from and to airport = $21 USD each way (43 USD total)
* Housing = $ 200 USD weekly (800 USD monthly) for each student)
* Flight from the US = $ 500 USD (1 stop flights from Newark airport with stops in Miami, Panama City or Bogota).
* Medical Spanish tutoring = $ 150 USD per student
* Administrative Costs = $ 200 USD per student.

Total Estimated Cost = $1500 USD

**Specific details on the academic and clinical programs:**

The program will run for 4 weeks as follows:

**Weeks 1 and 2:**

The first day, we will meet you at 10:00 AM at the entrance of the ‘Edificio de Extensión’ of the Universidad de Antioquia located at Calle 70 No 52-72. Oficina 605, Telephones (574) 219-5210 / (574) 2198212.

From there, we will walk to the conference room for a general orientation meeting. During this meeting we will present the details and logistics for the program, orientation about the school of medicine and the university and also general information about the city.

The “parcero” (peer) program will be introduced, in addition to security recommendations, use of transportation and other practical issues.

Lunch will be provided, and in the afternoon, registration and ID for the medical school and the university (TID) will be processed for each student. For this you will need to bring your passport.

Next, we will meet with the team in charge of the diversity program at the university.

You should be able to be back in your place of residence before 7:00 PM that evening.

On the second day, the Medical Spanish program will start for those students who want to increase their proficiency in the Spanish language. This will run for the first two weeks with a total of 30 hours of instruction and practice.

Also, during the first 2 weeks, the following activities will also take place:

--Seminars on the Colombian Health Care System.

--Telemedicine rotations. The medical school has an advanced program in this area.

--Rotations at the Simulation Laboratories and instruction on basic pre-hospital services.

--Meetings focused on cultural and linguistic exchanges.

**Weeks 3 and 4:**

--Clinical and Research Rotations at the Department of General Surgery, at Hospital San Vicente Fundación/IPS Universitaria, under the direction Dr. Carlos Morales, chief, department of surgery. This will be available only to those students participating in the global surgery program coordinated by Dr. Gregory Peck (up to 2 students).

--Clinical and Research Rotations at Psychiatry Service, Hospital San Vicente Fundación/IPS Universitaria under the direction of Drs. Carlos López Jaramillo and Cristian (up to 2 students interested in mental health research).

--Other Rotations are being arranged in primary care/general medicine settings, so that students gain awareness on diagnosis and management of common medical problems in the region.

--Fieldwork in rural areas.

--Fieldwork in community settings focusing on preventive medicine

**Extracurricular activities and cultural program:**

A guided cultural tour will take you to the historical places in the city, its architectural highlights, its natural parks and icons as well as its unique transportation means (metro, metro cable, trolleys, etc.).

Medellin’s metropolitan area (Valle de Aburra) is a political/administrative conglomerate similar to a small state that includes, besides Medellin, the capital, the municipalities of Caldas, La Estrella, Sabaneta, Itagüí, Envigado, Bello, Copacabana, Girardota y Barbosa.

All these urban enclaves are located in a small valley (Valle de Aburra) surrounded by mountains and crossed from north to south by the Medellin River. There is a very high population density in the valley, making this the second largest metropolitan area in the whole country of Colombia.

This was the first metropolitan area formally designated in Colombia in 1980 that reached a full economic integration and followed a carefully drafted urban development plan. The confluence of the various municipalities has created a solid urbanite complex, amalgamated as a single city.

The weather ranges between temperate to warm, with little fluctuations of temperature throughout the year.

The Antioquia region, were Medellin is located, is the top producer of energy in the country, the top grower of produce such as coffee and bananas and one of the largest gold producers in the country. Antioquia is also one of the two regions in Colombia with the highest floral production and the largest exporter of flowers.

Medellin has received special recognition as a leading urban environment in the last decade:

--It produces the smoothest, highest quality coffee in the world, as judged by the American Coffee Corporation, a distinction due to the optimum soil condition, the strict cultivation process, and the rigorous purity of the materials and the cleanliness of the cultivation and collection processes.

--In 2013 Medellin was designated as the “most innovative city in the world” as part of the “City of the Year” international competition.

--In 2016 Medellin received the “Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize Award” that designates the outstanding world cities that have created sustainable and innovative urban environments.

--Medellin also got first place in the survey of “intelligent cities” carried out by the organization ‘Indra Systems’ (together with Santiago, Chile, Barcelona, Spain and Lisbon, Portugal) and was designated as ‘one of the best cities to live’ in all South America.

--Just very recently, Medellin was nominated as a finalist for the *World Travel Awards*2018 (WTA), the most prestigious award for the tourist industry worldwide.

Thus Medellin in the 21st century is considered a modern, secure city, quite friendly, full of energy and cultural life, as well as abundant entertainment.