



Beyond the Biologic Basis of Disease: The Social and Economic Causation of Disease

An Immersion Course in Social Medicine On-site in Northern Uganda

Gulu, Uganda — January 9 to February 3, 2012



Course Overview

This annual four-week course (January 9-February 3, 2012) designed for medical students in their clinical years links clinical tropical medicine with social medicine teaching. Twenty-five to thirty medical students enroll each year; half of the spaces are filled by students from Gulu University Faculty of Medicine (GUFM) and the other half are filled by medical students from anywhere in the world. St. Mary's Hospital Lacor in Gulu, Uganda (www.lacorhospital.org) hosts the course on-site in collaboration with GUFM and the Students for Equity in Healthcare (SEHC), a Ugandan student advocacy group.

The course merges a number of unique pedagogical approaches including field visits, classroom-based presentations and discussions, group reflections, student presentations on previous international work, films, patient clerking and presentations, and bedside teaching. These approaches are utilized to create an innovative, interactive learning environment in which students participate as both learners and teachers to advance the entire class' understanding of the interactions between the biology of disease and the social, cultural, economic, political, and historical factors that influence illness presentation and social experience.

The course curriculum also places great importance on building partnerships and encouraging students to reflect upon their personal experiences with power, privilege, race, class, gender, and sexual orientation as central to effective partnership building in global health. In the spirit of *praxis* (a model of education that combines critical reflection with action) these components of the course give students the opportunity to discern their role in global health and social medicine through facilitated, in-depth conversations with core faculty and student colleagues.

In 2012, we will be introducing a new component to the course in which students will be put into small working groups and asked to design a potential health delivery solution to a health challenge facing Northern Uganda based upon a unique case study given to each group. Successful completion of the project will require groups to work independently to gather information from appropriate sources in the community, use creative problem-solving skills, and demonstrate the ability to integrate an understanding of local context into the proposed solution.

Credit for away electives can usually be arranged with a student's home institution. *Please note that previously, U.S. and Canadian students participating in the residency match have been able to attend the course without interfering in the match process by planning carefully ahead of time.*

Course Goals

1. To provide a structured global health immersion experience for medical students with dedicated supervision and teaching in clinical medicine and social medicine
2. To study issues related to global health in a resource-poor setting with an emphasis on local and global context
3. To foster critical analysis of global health interventions in resource-poor settings
4. To facilitate the development of a clinical approach to disease and illness using a biosocial model through structured supervision and teaching
5. To build an understanding and skill set associated with physician advocacy



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6. To promote international solidarity and partnership in generating solutions to global health challenges facing societies throughout the world

Course Curriculum

The course structure brings together teaching in both tropical medicine and social medicine. The social medicine component is divided into the following parts:

- **Part 1** – Determinants of Health Beyond Biology: Social and Economic Causation of Disease
- **Part 2** – Global Health Interventions: Paradigms of Charity, Humanitarianism, and Structural Change
- **Part 3** – Social Justice in Health Interventions: Models of Community-based Healthcare
- **Part 4** – Health and Human Rights and the Healthcare Worker as Advocate
- **Part 5** – Tools for Effective Application of Global Health Experience: Writing, Photography, Research, and Political Engagement

Clinical topics include malnutrition, malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, schistosomiasis, helminthiasis, rheumatic heart disease, sexually transmitted diseases, diarrheal disease, acute respiratory tract infections, and measles.

Course Faculty

A group of course leaders from both the U.S. and Uganda with expertise in tropical medicine, sociology, medical anthropology, and public health make up the core faculty, including:

- *Phyllis Kisa, MB.Ch.B* – Ugandan physician currently completing surgical specialization at Mulago Hospital in Kampala.
- *Fred Oola, MB.Ch.B, DTM&H* – Ugandan physician with extensive programmatic experience in Northern Uganda and public health training at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.
- *Julian Atim, MB.Ch.B, MPH* – Ugandan physician and a founder of SEHC with public health training from the Harvard School of Public Health.
- *Amy Finnegan, MALD, MA* – U.S. PhD candidate in sociology at Boston College focused on social movements who also completed training at the Fletcher School at Tufts University.
- *Michael Westerhaus, MD, MA* – U.S. internal medicine physician at Brigham and Women's Hospital in the Division of Global Health Equity with medical anthropology training.

In addition, numerous experts involved with local health initiatives visit the course, deliver presentations, and facilitate conversations.

Cost

It is estimated that an average U.S. student's cost for the 2012 course will be:

Airfare (average in recent years):	\$1300.00
Full Room/Board for 1 month:	\$ 350.00
Course Fee:	\$ 650.00
Total:	\$2300.00

This doesn't include vaccination costs, spending money for gifts and other small personal expenses, and additional travel in Uganda not associated with the course that students may wish to do.



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Limited financial aid may be available to cover some of the course fee for those with demonstrated financial need. If interested in being considered for this scholarship, please make note when you submit your application and an additional form will be sent for you to complete.

More Information and Application Process

Please see our website at: <https://sites.google.com/site/socialmeduganda/>. In addition, short videos of our previous courses can be viewed by clicking the desired year: 2010:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gLHGpY4EDwg&feature=related> and 2011:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z2UCUFcXAas>. Applications are due July 31st, 2011. To receive an application, contact social.medicine@yahoo.com.