

GLOBAL HEALTH AND UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS AREA OF CONCENTRATION

The area of concentration in Global Health and Underserved Populations was established to provide students with opportunities to pursue in-depth study of critical global health issues that affect vulnerable populations in the United States and worldwide. This longitudinal para-curriculum forms the basis upon which students may base future clinical work, research, and service in global health and community health.

GOALS/ OBJECTIVES

Understanding international differences in health and healthcare at the policy, economic, cultural, public health, and direct healthcare delivery levels:

Students should be able to: discuss global healthcare economics; compare and contrast the health systems of other countries with that of the United States, including how services are financed; and describe how the crisis in human resources for health affects health system strengthening.

Understanding the roles of major multinational organizations, large-scale donors, international NGOs, and pharmaceutical companies in low-to-middle income countries, and how legal and trade agreements impact access to essential medicines and the rise of chronic diseases:

Students should be able to identify community-based organizations (in-country and within Pittsburgh) that impact the health of vulnerable and marginalized populations, including those who have mental illness, substance-use disorders, are disabled, homeless, uninsured, and/or impoverished.

Applying basic research methods in epidemiology and public health:

Students should be able to demonstrate the ability to think creatively and analytically through completion of an independent, mentored scholarly project in the areas of global health and/or underserved populations.

Describing the global burden of disease and the impact of highly prevalent diseases (including major established infectious/tropical diseases and non-communicable diseases) on public health and social policy:

Students should be able to select a disease and/or region of the world and prepare an analysis of the potential impact of that illness on the public health and social policy of the selected region (health impact assessment). Students should be able to identify potential socioeconomic, cultural, and environmental barriers to preventive care and treatment (social determinants of health).

Appreciating the local relevance of global health issues:

Students should be able to identify health implications of migration, travel, and displacement, including: common health conditions faced by refugees, the cultural context of health and disease; demographics of the refugee population in southwestern Pennsylvania, and language and communication challenges and other barriers to the care of refugee and immigrant populations.

REQUIREMENTS

- Sign up/apply by November of second year
- Attending Monday lunch GH lectures when you can
- Scholarly project applicable to global health or underserved populations*
- One elective: Community Health elective and/or Global Health elective (MS 3-4)**

**with approval of AOC directors*

***may substitute with other electives with approval of AOC directors*

AOC DIRECTORS

Thuy Bui, MD

Peter Veldkamp, MD, MS