



University  
of  
Pittsburgh

School of  
Medicine

# Sustainable Global Health for Medical Students

## Mini-Elective

### Fall 2020

Course Dates: Dates: Thursday afternoons 10/1, 10/15, 11/5, 11/12, 11/19, 12/10 (times vary, see below)

Maximum Students: 50

Class Year: MS1 and MS-2 from School of Medicine. Also available to Graduate School of Public Health, School of Dental Medicine, Physician Assistant Program, School of Nursing and School of Pharmacy

Course Directors: Peter Veldkamp, MD,

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Description:

This mini-elective is an introductory course in the principles of global public health and the role of medical professionals in facing global health challenges. The course will begin with an introduction to the principles of global health, major definitions, and describe current major global health threats. Various medical faculty will present their unique global health expertise, their journey to identifying and pursuing global health goals, and opportunities in the field for medical students and healthcare providers. Students will also participate in small-group workshops to strengthen skills in developing global health interventions and partnerships that are ethical and sustainable regarding the communities they serve and with careers in healthcare.

Objectives:

1. Provide students with an introductory understanding of global health, ethics of global health practices, and describe the principles and scope of global public health
2. Identify the present major global health issues as well as emerging global health issues.
3. Examine the social, political and economic determinants of health disparities. Learn how global interdependencies contribute to unequal experiences of sickness and health.
4. Describe the various roles and opportunities for medical professionals to sustainably engage with global health. Understand the roles of other members in global health communities, such as key NGO's, political bodies, policy makers, and non-physician health professionals.
5. Learn to develop and evaluate global health interventions in terms of ethics, sustainability, and effectiveness.

Requirements:

- Attend at least 5/6 sessions
- Must attend mandatory final presentation during Session 6
- Complete and present group project

Pre-requisites: None

**Session 1:** October 1 @ 5:30 pm

Theme: Introduction to principles, ethics, and core issues of Global Public Health.

Learning Objectives:

1. Describe key global public health concepts, including demographic and epidemiological transitions, measures of health status, and the varying burdens of disease.
2. Examine the fundamental right to health and its implications for global public health measures and policies.
3. Introduce the concept of global health ethics and how it relates to medical activities.
4. Understand the roles of other members in global health communities, such as key NGO's, political bodies, policy makers, and non-physician health professionals.
5. Introduce group project and expectations

**Session 2:** October 15 @ 12 pm

Theme: Principles of developing and evaluating sustainable global health interventions

Learning Objectives:

1. Introduce the concept of "cultural humility;" and recognize that all communities have socio-cultural values that influence how health and illness are defined and treated.
  - a. Understand how culture can impact the appropriateness of various interventions
2. Understand the importance of evidence-based interventions and identify the sources of information for such interventions.
3. Understand key components of project monitoring and evaluation of global health interventions.
4. Learn about challenges faced by global health interventions in low-resource regions.

**Session 3:** November 5 @ 12 pm

Theme: Opportunities in global health: surgical specialties

Learning Objectives:

1. Learn about opportunities for healthcare professionals in global health from faculty experts in the field.
2. Develop an understanding of ongoing global health work in *surgical* specialties.

**Session 4:** November 12 @ 5:30 pm

Theme: Opportunities in global health: medical specialties

Learning Objectives:

1. Learn about opportunities for healthcare professionals in global health from faculty experts in the field.
2. Develop an understanding of ongoing global health work in *medical* specialties.

**Session 5:** November 19 @ 12 pm

Theme: Effective and ethical global health research, and building research partnerships

Learning Objectives:

1. Understand the role of community collaborations in global health research and the importance of differing perspectives elicited through such collaborations for constructive problem solving.
2. Describe how to implement and develop sustainable research programs that respect and uplift the communities they are aimed towards.

**Session 6:** December 10 @ 12pm

Theme: Conclusions and group project presentations

Learning Objectives:

1. Present independently researched group projects.
2. Learn about a variety of global health issues by listening and interacting with final presentations.

**Group Project:** Students in small groups will choose one global health issue and a geographic region and develop interventions. Students will assess the viability, ethical implications, and sustainability of their selected interventions. The project will take the form of a short presentation with an overview of their selected issue, intervention strategies, challenges to implementation, and conclusions.