

## International Medicine

These programs will allow participants to explore issues in the delivery of health services in other countries. Participants engage in activities that may have a clinical and/or research focus. The balance between clinical activities, didactic instruction, and investigative activities varies with individual interest and preparation, and the options available at a given site.

Most opportunities are in developing countries and provide a clinical or research rotation for students, interns, residents and other participants that help develop their appreciation for Third World medicine and the impact of culture on health. This experience can be applied to the underserved populations you will see in your future practice.

These experiences are designed not only for students considering careers in international health, but for increasing the understanding of any future physician practicing in the United States who may care for patients from other countries. The experience is also designed to deepen the awareness of all participants regarding the determinants of health and illness and diverse methods of approaching health problems in settings with varied cultural, socio-economic and political characteristics.

If you are interested in international rotations, you may participate in a number of programs sponsored by OU-COM. You may want to discuss your interests with Gillian Ice, PhD, MPH, Director of OU-COM International Programs.

**Please remember that the CORE Administrator is always the initial gateway for any rotation. You MUST discuss your plans with the CORE administrator.**

*For any international medicine rotation, allow at least three months to one year for planning.* In order to receive credit for an international rotation, you must:

1. Discuss with and obtain the approval of the CORE administrator and the Director of OU-COM International Programs.
2. Submit an International Programs Application, and any required supplemental materials, to the Director of OU-COM International Programs to request her approval. If the rotation is not currently sponsored by OU-COM, additional materials must be submitted as outlined for individually-organized programs on the International Programs website ([http://www.oucom.ohiou.edu/international/individually\\_organized.htm](http://www.oucom.ohiou.edu/international/individually_organized.htm)). **Please note: The International Programs Application form MUST be approved one month prior to the deadline for the Rotation Submission Record form for the quarter in which the international medicine rotation will be completed.**
3. Once you have received approval from the Director of OU-COM International Programs and the individual program director whose program you are applying, you must complete all pre-departure paperwork and requirements. This includes immunizations, copies of passport, visa, etc. Without this, you will

travel and participate on vacation and will not be covered by OU-COM malpractice insurance or receive credit.

4. Before you request to be registered for this rotation by completing your Rotation Submission Form (after you received approval from the Director of OU-COM International Programs), you must submit a CORE Special Petition Form to be approved by your CORE Administrator, CORE Assistant Dean, the Director of Pre-Doctoral Education, and the Associate Dean for Pre-Doctoral Education.

5. After you return, you must fulfill all requirements for the specific program to the satisfaction of the program director, including evaluations, as well as the Director of OU-COM International Programs before you will receive credit.

Once the plan is approved, you must follow the scheduling and registration procedures (see Section III) as well as the evaluation procedures (see Section IV). As indicated in Section III, a completed Physician Information form (PIF) must be received by the OU-COM Office of International Programs from the preceptor. These rotations will be credited as a Clinical Elective (OCOM 891) and *will not* detract from the eight weeks permitted for out-of-state rotations.

**You MUST also follow the University guidelines for travel and study abroad.**

For more information call the OU-COM Office of International Programs or go to their web site at <http://www.oucom.ohiou.edu/international>. You will be required to participate in an orientation before departure and a debriefing upon return with college administration.

**Immunizations MUST be completed well in advance of travel.**

Recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for travelers can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/travel>. Also NAFSA's "Guidelines for Responsible Study Abroad: Health and Safety" are available on the web at <http://www.secussa.nafsa.org/safetyabroad/guidelines1298.html>.

All students planning international experiences as part of the OU-COM curriculum MUST be covered by malpractice insurance. All pre-departure requirements MUST be fulfilled before you can leave the country.

There are several OUCOM-sponsored programs. For the most updated information, see the Office of International Programs website at <http://www.oucom.ohiou.edu/international>. Application procedures for both OU-COM-sponsored and individually-organized programs can also be found on the website.