Description of Experience

In Haiti, despite the recent influx of international money, patients with chronic disease have been largely neglected, have become extremely vulnerable and are often marginalized. As a result, many of these children suffer from significant morbidity or do not survive their illnesses. Kay Mackenson (Haitian Creole translation for “Mackenson’s House”) is a Haitian clinic that caters to children with chronic, non-communicable diseases - focusing on children with type 1 diabetes. The mission of Kay Mackenson is to “improve the health of Haitian children suffering from chronic illnesses by providing high quality, compassionate, family-centered care, in addition to education and solidarity.”

UCSF students will work side by side and under the direct supervision of Haitian RNs at Kay Mackenson while in Haiti, providing care for Haitian children with Type 1 diabetes. Students will be responsible for activities such as checking blood sugar levels in patients, and conducting appropriate patient education via an interpreter. Students will have the opportunity to observe care management for children with Type 1 diabetes in a resource poor community. Students will have the ability to examine how the delivery of healthcare for children with Type 1 Diabetes is adjusted for the physical, social and economic conditions in Haiti.

Objectives

Well-functioning health systems are essential to improving health outcomes, health equity, access to services, and social protection. In middle- and low-income country settings, they are vital to responding to the growing burden of non-communicable diseases. The objectives of the Haiti practicum are:

- Define the concept of a ‘health system’, and its core objectives, elements and functions.
- Define the scope of non-communicable diseases epidemiology and appreciate the changing importance of non-communicable diseases as a major public health burden in different parts of the world.
- Assess the role of different health care system configurations when promoting good health, access to services, equity, and economic and wider social outcomes.

Eligibility Requirements

- Must be a matriculated Master’s or doctoral student at UCSF Student at the time of travel
- RN License
- Must be able to pay travel expenses
- Must attend a diabetes camp in US prior to the time of travel,
- Must have a plan for attending a diabetes camp prior to the time of application.

Application Deadline: Mid to Late January. Decisions announced by March.

Please write to faculty Lead, Linda Stephan, with questions: linda.stephan@ucsf.edu