Elective Catalog Description

Sponsoring Department:

Course Number and Title: AMOS 4th year Medical Student Community Health Rotation

Faculty: Laura Parajon M.D., MPH; Renee Kusler M.D., MPH, DTMH; Gabriela Woo M.D.

Prerequisites: Good oral and written communication in Spanish

Periods Offered: Year-round

Min/Maximum Enrollment: 1 (independent course)

Credit Hours: 6 (4 week rotation)

Clinical/Non-Clinical: Clinical

Duration of Elective/Selective: 4 weeks

Where/When to report on first day: AMOS Health and Hope Office, Managua, Nicaragua

Contact: volunteer.amos@amoshealth.org, amoshealth.org

Visiting Medical Students: Domestic/International/Both

Learning Objectives: (what student will be able to do as a result of this experience)
AMOS Health and Hope, a non-profit public health organization, prioritizes care for poor and marginalized populations in rural and urban areas of Nicaragua. AMOS uses an integral strategy for improving health called community based primary health care.

1. Students will learn how community based primary health care functions in a semi-urban setting in Nicaragua.
2. Students will gain knowledge about the diagnosis and treatment of tropical diseases.
3. Students will participate in the care of patients in a primary care clinic and gain understanding of the challenges of providing good patient care in a low resource setting.
4. Students will participate in patient education and support groups and will identify and discuss the benefits and challenges of various preventive health care strategies. Students may choose to work with local staff to improve the existing curriculum or develop new curriculum.
5. Students will develop an understanding of the social determinants of health through home visits in the semi-urban community surrounding the clinic, through interactions with patients in clinic and through working with local CHWs.
6. Students will experience cross-cultural communication and discuss the importance of cultural competency in a clinical context and in a community context.
7. Students will work with the local CHWs and learn from them about the important role of CHWs in a resource poor setting. Students will also serve as teachers and mentors to the CHWs as they work together in the clinic and in the community.
8. Students will read about global health strategies and discuss with local staff. Students will experience how AMOS works to empower communities and improve health outcomes in both urban and rural settings and discuss these strategies in relation to other global strategies.

**Learning Activities:** (What the student will do e.g., conferences, rounds, clinic, expected hours, on-call requirements/opportunities)

1. Medical students have the opportunity to work alongside a Nicaraguan physician in a small, semi-rural primary care clinic in the outskirts of Managua, Monday to Friday, from 7am to 2pm. Students will learn to assess and treat:
   a. acute illness
   b. tropical diseases (such as dengue fever and Chikungunya)
   c. chronic diseases (such as diabetes, hypertension and asthma)
   d. mental illness
   e. reproductive health
2. In the afternoons, address the social determinants of health, working on disease prevention and health promotion alongside community health workers (CHWs)
   a. home visits
   b. participation in patient education/support groups
   c. development of educational modules for our CHW network.
3. **A final written project is required.** The options will be discussed with student prior to arrival to ensure the proposed project complies with UNC requirements. Depending on student interest, potential projects include:
   a. reflection paper (10 pages)
   b. quality improvement of clinical protocols
   c. operations research
   d. CHW training
4. Selected articles addressing global health will be available to read and discuss with staff.
5. A one to two-week rural community health experience is optional, based on availability.

**Evaluation:** (How student will be evaluated e.g., observed administering procedures, interviewing patients, presentation at case conference, participation in rounds, patient write-ups)

Students will be evaluated by their supervising physicians based on competency of clinical skills, the final written project, professional development, and active participation in the community based primary health care model.

**Program Fees:** $1000 - Total fees include all pre-trip planning and logistics; airport pick up and drop off; fieldwork supplies; food, lodging and transportation in rural communities. Price does NOT include airfare.