The primary function of the UNC School of Medicine Office of International Activities (OIA) is to develop programmatic structure and support for UNC medical students and resident physicians interested in global health. This includes providing support for UNC resident physicians (and fellows under GME) doing international rotations by assisting with issues involving site selection, advising, development of educational objectives, providing travel health and safety information (and tracking for emergency planning), funding possibilities (including UNC based global health scholarships for residents), and support for adherence to GME requirements for international rotations. The GMEC and OIA jointly agree that all UNC resident physicians (and fellows under the GME office) are required to matriculate through the OIA in coordination with the GME Office and required to have a pre-travel medical evaluation through Occupational Health Services.

Global Health Rotation Flowchart for UNC resident physicians

Resident identifies international rotation site, obtains support of departmental advisor and residency program director, and completes all GME requirements outlined in Policy and Procedure UNC Hospitals Graduate Medical Education Policy on International Rotations (approved 10/19/11)

The OIA assists resident in finding an appropriate international rotation site, identifying departmental advisor, and reviews all GME requirements outlined in Policy and Procedure UNC Hospitals Graduate Medical Education Policy on International Rotations (approved 10/19/11)

Resident completes all GME requirements:
1) Letter from program director
2) Letter of Agreement between UNC and receiving institution
3) Special Projects Release and Hold Harmless Agreement
4) Special Projects Professional Liability Form
* Complete list and details of requirements can be found in Policy and Procedure UNC Hospitals Graduate Medical Education Policy on International Rotations (approved 10/19/11)

The OIA ensures that the resident physician:
1) Sign up/Purchases the required UNC travel health/evacuation insurance
2) Completes the required OIA online travel health modules
3) Makes an appointment for pre-travel medical evaluation through OHS (1088 Old Clinic/984-974-4480) – pre-appointment information form on OIA website
4) Electronically signs the Code of Conduct
5) Is aware of biannual UNC resident scholarship opportunities
6) Is aware of additional mentoring and educational support for global health activities provided by the OIA

The OIA manages a list of residents currently traveling and their emergency contact information, and maintains close contact with GME Office and the UNC Provost Office in an emergency or escalating travel risk in residents’ destination countries.

The OIA maintains a database of residents’ global health rotations and evaluations of the rotations on the “Residents” section of the OIA website as a resource for future residents.