

Global Health at UNC-Chapel Hill Family Medicine

UNC-Chapel Hill has a rich history of involvement and accomplishment in global health and UNC Department of Family Medicine is a great place to come to begin exploring! UNC Global (<http://www.global.unc.edu/>) has become a think tank and place of coordination and cross-pollination on campus. In both the Schools of Medicine and Public Health and we are privileged to have experienced faculty who contribute to education, research, and program development worldwide. In addition, the Research Triangle of North Carolina is well known as a center for international health and draws many experts to the area. Family Medicine residents who are interested can find ample ways to explore global health at UNC/CH.

The Office of International Activities in the SOM (<http://www.med.unc.edu/oia>), directed by Martha Carlough (a core FM residency faculty member), serves medical students and residents interested in global health and is a great source of information (www.med.unc.edu/oia) and learning opportunities. **In 2015, an interdisciplinary “Area of Concentration” was launched for UNC residents, available to 10 residents per year on a competitive basis.** There is an on-line “Foundations in Global Health” course available, a quarterly interdisciplinary global health journal club and competitive funding available for up to \$2000/resident for global health electives. In the Department of Family Medicine, a number of our faculty have interest and ongoing involvement in global health. Our faculty serve as key faculty advisors for student run global health organizations, including the Honduran Health Alliance (<http://www.med.unc.edu/hha/>) in Choloteca, Honduras and the Proyecto Puentes de Salud (<http://www.med.unc.edu/pps>) in Guanajuato, Mexico. Also, FM faculty member, Sylvia Becker-Dreps is the Director of the UNC Program in Nicaragua, and conducts world-class research in pediatric infectious diseases (sbd@unc.edu). Our statewide department also has a partnership with Shoulder to Shoulder, Inc. (www.shouldertoshoulder.org) Other faculty are involved in primary care research and training programs internationally on an ongoing basis and across campus there are many opportunities for collaboration (see: <http://globalhealth.unc.edu>). In the past few years, residents have done electives in Nicaragua, Honduras, Mexico, Guatemala, Malawi and Kenya.

UNC-Chapel Hill has a breadth and depth of global health available at only a few institutions nationally. We see this as an important issue as interest in global health continues to rise among students and residents, and often coincides with interest in serving underserved populations; a key value of our discipline and a focus of our residency. For residents who are interested, we are able to offer two weeks of elective during 2nd year which can be spent either abroad or working “across cultures” here in North Carolina (such as at a community or migrant health center serving largely Latino patients) and a 4 week block during the 3rd year. Experiences in farmworker health are facilitated through faculty member, Gayle Thomas, who serves as the medical director of the North Carolina Farmworker Health Program. Residents can request to be assigned to a faculty advisor experienced in global health for support and mentoring, and they would be encouraged to develop a project related to their elective experience that could be shared through presentation or publication. Residents may want to consider staying at UNC for a year following residency for an MPH, with a certificate in global health which would be well worth the investment (www.sph.unc.edu/globalhealth/)

For more information, feel free to contact us!

Martha C. Carlough, MD, MPH (Martha_carlough@med.unc.edu)

UNC Chapel Hill Department of Family Medicine