Spartan Traveler
A report from the MSU Institute for Global Health

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EDUCATION AND RESEARCH CONSORTIUM OF THE AMERICAS FALL 2019

The Institute for Global Health (IGH) with the College of Osteopathic Medicine (COM) at Michigan State University (MSU) will be hosting the second Research and Education Consortium this upcoming month of September.

At the Institute for Global Health, our main objective is to develop collaborative, multidisciplinary teams that can approach complex health issues not only in our community, but worldwide. Addressing local and global factors that impact the optimal health and well-being for humans, animals, and the environment is one of our priorities.

This conference brings together like-minded organizations and specialty researchers to focus on areas – health, agriculture, veterinary, genetics, natural science, nursing, apiculture, among others that compound the One Health concept to create discussions on the direction and growth of global health research for the nation and the world.

The expected outcomes from this consortium will be to build the basis for the Virtual Tropical Medicine Institute, identify funding sources between our partners and US which may contribute to the research projects discussed through the workgroups and present a plan for future endeavors.

The consortium will be hosted on campus at Michigan State University from September 11th to September 15th, 2019. There will be a two day conference on Thursday, September 12th and Friday, September 13th at the MSU Union, followed by a Spartan Spirit Experience on Saturday, September 14th at the MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine alumni weekend football game tailgate, for our out of town guests.

One Health is defined as the collaborative effort of multiple disciplines working locally, nationally, and globally to attain sustainable optimal health for the ecosystem and that’s what attendants will work on throughout the Consortium.

For more information visit:
http://ighealth.msu.edu/
Perspectives

Dean Amalfitano

At Michigan State University and the MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine, an integral part of our mission is connected to generating and disseminating knowledge that will help people live healthier lives.

For decades we have been active in efforts to engage globally in research, education and outreach that enrich the student experience, enhance cultural understanding and offer many other benefits linked to enhancing international health care and health care education.

Connecting our work to global audiences is not an add-on or superfluous gesture to us—we understand that by exchanging knowledge and understanding, we improve care and health for all people.

One example of this is the Muslim Mental Health Conference. Founded more than a decade ago by Farha Abbasi, an MSU assistant professor of psychiatry, this event brings together scholars, researchers, students and religious leaders who seek to remove the stigma and address improved mental health care for Muslim communities everywhere.

The conference was held in Michigan for its first 10 years. Last year the first international offering took place in Malaysia, and in September, the second international Muslim Mental Health Conference will be held in Cambridge England.

Another is the first U.S.-led on-the-ground continuing medical education program in Cuba. This MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine and IGH coordinated event will give D.O.s and M.D.s the chance to explore the island nation’s health system, including visits to a family health clinic and hospital as they explore its rich cultural traditions.

Whether it’s efforts like these or collaborations that bring health care professionals and administrators from other nations to the U.S. or medical electives that give our students the chance to learn about global health care, we are proud of our college’s international efforts and of our partnership with the MSU Institute for Global Health.

Andrea Amalfitano, DO, PhD, DABMGG
Dean, MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine
Director, MSU-Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (MSU-CTSI)
Osteopathic Heritage Foundation
Professor of Pediatrics, Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, MSU

MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE TRAVELS TO CUBA WITH INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH

In 2018, the Institute for Global Health (IGH) received funding from 100,000 Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund, a private collaboration between the U.S. Department of State, Partners of the Americas, and NAFSA (Association of International Educators) to partner with other universities and increase student and faculty interest in education abroad experiences in Cuba. In partnership with the MSU Office for Education Abroad, IGH developed an education abroad experience for faculty and students from Meharry Medical College. Drs. Rene Hinojosa and Rebecca Malouin, along with Dr. Susanne Tropez-Sims, Associate Dean of Meharry Medical School traveled with 8 public health and medical students from Meharry Medical College to Cuba for an education abroad experience. As a result of the successful partnership, Dean of the Meharry Medical School, Dr. Veronica Mallett, and Associate Dean Susanne Tropez-Sims visited the Institute for Global Health March 26-27, 2019 to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Dean Andrea Amalfitano. Over the next year, with support from the Institute for Global Health, the two institutions will collaborate on the development of a similar Institute for Global Health at Meharry Medical College.

AMALFITANO VISIT PARTNERS IN RESEARCH

As newly appointed Dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine, Dean Amalfitano visited on October 25, 2018 our partner hospitals and universities in Merida, Mexico to discuss future collaboration on medical education and research. Dean Amalfitano and Drs. Jake Rowan, Rebecca Malouin and Travis Gordon met with newly elected Governor Mauricio Vila Dosal to discuss the history and future of the long-standing relationship between universities and hospitals in the Yucatan and Michigan State University. The group toured General Hospital Agustin O’Horan, where MSU has sponsored an OMM clinic since 2010. Leadership at the hospital has supported OMM training and research within multiple hospital departments. The MSU delegation also toured the Hospital Regional de Alta Especialidad, the Autonomous University of Yucatan.

Andrea Amalfitano, DO, PhD, DABMGG
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Dr. Travis Gordon, Dean Andrea Amalfitano, Dr. Rebecca Malouin, Ms. Lorena Mier y Teran Medina, and Dr. Jake Rowan at the Osteopathic Manipulative Clinic Merida, Mexico.
On January 12, 2010 a 7.0 earthquake at 4:53 pm struck the country of Haiti leaving the nation's capital, Port Au Prince, and the surrounding communities in ruins. The aftermath of the natural disaster took over 160,000 lives with over half a million people homeless. William Cunningham D.O. MHA was on the ground in Port Au Prince three days after the quake. Dr. Cunningham, an emergency medicine physician and currently the Director of the Institute for Global Health and Associate Dean for Global Health at MSU arrived with a team of surgeons and immediately set up a surgical camp at the Epicenter of the quake in Leogane.

This horrific experience led to Dr. Cunningham and other MSUCOM physicians to promise to return to Haiti to assist the Haitians in their recovery. At least once or twice a year Dr. Cunningham and Dr. Gary Willyerd have led medical teams to a small rural village outside of the second largest city, Cap Haitian, in Haiti to deliver care. In 2018, the Institute for Global Health developed a Study Abroad course for the health care colleges at MSU. This has enabled students in the four health care colleges at MSU to travel to Haiti with MSU faculty and researchers to deliver care and develop research studies.

Ryan Hodgeman is a third year DO candidate at Michigan State University’s College of Osteopathic Medicine. He is the class of 2021 East Lansing Vice President, former International Osteopathic Medicine Organization President and currently sits on the Trainee Advisory Committee for the Consortium of Universities for Global Health. He is an officer in the United States Army and loves spending time with his wife Courtney and dog Kallie.

In a brief interview with Mr. Hodgeman he shared a few words about his career and passion:

“I pursued Michigan State University’s College of Osteopathic Medicine program because I wanted a career in global health. After enthusiastic support, funding, and opportunity during my first two years as a medical student – it’s clear that the reputation of Michigan State as a leader in global engagement is well founded. For the past eight years, William Cunningham D.O., MHA, Director of the MSU Institute for Global Health and Associate Dean for Global Health at MSU have been working with a team of medical students, medical residents, and volunteers, has been working on establishing a community medical clinic in the small town of Limonade, Haiti. The clinic operates in conjunction with a Michigan based non-profit organization, Soaring Unlimited, that has been deeply rooted within Limonade for decades. The clinic has served as an epicenter of community growth and an excellent vessel for medical students to experience a different culture and see diverse pathology.

My work in Limonade, Haiti is focused on redirecting our goals from direct medical aid to building a sustainable partnership using data driven innovation to improve care and wellness for the community. In 2017 we collected epidemiologic data on the patients presenting to the clinic. We found a high incidence of elevated blood pressure readings, gynecological infection, and gastrointestinal and dermatological parasitemia. We took this data to the Haitian community leaders and people involved in health delivery in November 2018. Through two separate focus groups, we had a dialogue on how they wanted to approach barriers to care. A central theme from the participants was the request for agent(s) of the clinic to go out into the community to provide health education and act as a link between people and the clinic. With my team, including a family medicine resident and MSUCOM alumnus Arpon Shahed, and in conjunction with MSU College of Nursing, we are creating a training program for a Haitian community health agent. I will be returning for the fourth time this November to train the first health agent.

Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine’s Institute for Global Health has given me the tools I need to prepare for the career I want in medicine. I joined a budding global partnership that was ready for a transition to something more, and my situation is not unique. I am surrounded by students and staff pushing to make collaborative improvements to community wellness sustainable in even the poorest communities around the world. As an osteopathic student I was taught from day one that health is a combination of innumerable factors derived from all aspects of a person’s life. Together, with the people of Limonade, we use this principle of holism to find ways to break down the barriers to healthcare.”
The Institute for Global Health is pleased to introduce the online Master of Science in Global Health and the Graduate Certificate in Global Health (MSGH). The program builds on the globally recognized strengths of Michigan State University and is unique among global health graduate degree programs in its focus on One Health. The program director, Dr. Rebecca Malouin, completed both her Ph.D. and M.P.H. in International Health at the Johns Hopkins University, served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Niger, and worked in several global consulting firms prior to joining Michigan State University. The program faculty represent over half the colleges at the university, as well as partnering international universities and non-governmental organizations. Prospective students are health professionals, drawn from the medical, nursing, veterinary and allied health discipline, or individuals seeking technical skills to work in a global health organization.

The Master of Science in Global Health requires 42 credits and over 9 different optional education abroad experiences. Prior to completing the degree, students will develop a capstone project as a synthesis and application of the knowledge, tools and skills acquired throughout the program. The Graduate Certificate in Global Health requires 9 credits all of which are transferable between the two programs. The program is currently accepting applications for courses beginning in January 2020. For more information about the program, please refer to globalhealth.msu.edu or contact globalhealth@msu.edu.
The Master of Science in Global Health (MSGH) Program in the College of Osteopathic Medicine is partnering with the Master of Public Health Program (MPH) in the College of Human Medicine to develop a joint education abroad for graduate students within the two programs. Dr. Rebecca Malouin, Director of the MSGH, and Dr. Connie Currier, Assistant Professor in the MPH, received funding from the MSU Office for Education Abroad, to travel to Ghana from June 18 to 27, 2019, to meet with potential partner universities and identify community-sites for the shared program. Dr. Currier has been leading MSU education abroad programs in Ghana since 2004, first in the College of Nursing and, since 2010, in the MPH Program.

The itinerary was arranged by Dr. Edith Tetteh, a professor at the University of Ghana and an adjunct professor at Ensign University. The team met with Ms. Bernice Affotey, EducationUSA Advisor at the US Embassy in Accra to identify ways to engage Ghanaian students in the MSU programs. As both the MSGH and MPH are online programs, Ms. Affotey indicated these would be attractive to working Ghanaian professionals. The team also met with officials from Mountcrest University College, the University of Ghana and Ensign University. Mountcrest University College leadership signed a continuation of a Memorandum of Understanding with MSU and the other institutions expressing interest in developing joint educational programs. Drs. Malouin and Currier, led by Dr. Tetteh, visited several community sites for proposed week-long student immersion experiences. The course will be designed for students to participate in cultural and didactic activities at a university and then to participate in community-engaged research projects within a community. The anticipated start date for the course is summer 2020.

While in Ghana, both Drs. Malouin and Currier traveled to Ho and attended the International Symposium on Global Community-Engaged Learning, which was co-sponsored by MSU and the Ghanaian-led non-profit organization Adanu.
ONE HEALTH IN NEPAL
A MEDICALLY-ORIENTED INTERDISCIPLINARY EXPERIENCE

The institute for Global Health has partnered with the College of Veterinary Medicine to offer a 3-week course in Nepal structured with a One Health curriculum. The principal architect of this course and the course instructor is Melinda Wilkins, DVM, MPH, PhD. After returning from the third course at the end of May 2019, Dr. Wilkins was excited to observe the transformation in her students. “The One Health discipline encourages students to construct solutions to health issues by observing the effects on humans, animals and environment. The students are energized that they can have an impact on our planet.”

ELECTIVE DESCRIPTION

• OST 694 is a 3-credit hour elective that provides students with an overall purpose as follows:

• Enriching students’ understanding of the One Health concept which is the recognition of the interconnected nature of humans, animals and the environment, and the direct impact each system has on the other.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

• Public Health

• Health disparity and inequity

• Interaction with local public health epidemiologists, researchers, veterinarians, physicians, researchers, laboratorians, game wardens and NGOs

• Developing zoonotic disease research interests

• Considering future professional opportunities in global health

• Compare and contrast the U.S. human and animal health and agriculture systems with that of the host country

COURSE GOALS

Through didactic lectures and hands on experiences, this study abroad course will enable students to:

1. Understand and articulate the principles of the One Health concept including the inter-related nature of human, animal, and environmental health.

2. Develop critical, creative and analytic thinking skills related to the One Health focus areas with special focus on areas of interconnectedness.

3. Enhance their ability to interact with cultural differences, understand issues of socio-economic equity, social determinants of health, and consider One Health issues from diverse perspectives.

4. Challenge, understand and appreciate their culture and experiences and how these areas influence their world view.

5. Understand the role they can play as a global citizen/scientist equipped with a broader understanding of the interconnectedness of human, animal and environmental health.
TRAVELING TO TURKEY: REFLECTIONS ON AN INTERNATIONAL ELECTIVE


As a fourth-year medical student with eyes on a neuromusculoskeletal/osteopathic manipulative medicine residency and a heavy dedication to international medicine, I came to the IIH looking for one more exceptional experience before my graduation.

I had traveled to Konya, Turkey as part of an IIH elective during my first year of medical school for a terrific one-week program. At that time, it was apparent to me that the Turkish people had a dire need for manual medicine.

Through the IIH, I was able to coordinate three months of rotations in Konya and Antalya, Turkey in dermatology, pediatrics specialties, including cardiology and immunology, and neurosurgery. I even got a few days of exposure to acupuncture!

It was an invaluable experience for my learning of how medical systems work on an international level, and about giving lectures and spreading the word about OMM to a country where there was such a great need for manual medicine.

I give my sincere thanks for IIH for the amazing opportunities I was given!

UNIBE REFLECTION ON MSUCOM

Spartans are back! For a third time, we welcomed a new group of 26 Michigan State University medical students during their Spring Break. During their one week stay, students had the opportunity to participate in clinical rotations in the different areas of medicine that are being developed at the Hospital General de la Salud and in the Instituto Nacional de Diabetes, Endocrinologia y Nutricion (INDEN) (General Plaza Hospital of the health and at the institution of national diabetes, endocrinology, and nutrition). In addition to observing/shadowing during their clinical rotations, students also were part of classes led by our research professors that discussed topics such as Tropical Diseases in the Dominican Republic, International Collaborative Research, The Importance of Research in Public Policy in Low and Middle-Income Countries for Education and Evidence-Based Medicine Important.

BRITTANY LADSON: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC EXPERIENCE

Of the many study abroad trips I have participated in, my trip to the Dominican Republic stands above the rest. After finishing my first 3 semesters of medical school, being able to apply what I have learned to clinical scenarios was the most perfectly-timed, rewarding experience I could have asked for. We shadowed in ophthalmology, the emergency room, and a diabetic foot clinic. We interacted with the entire health care team throughout the week and learned more about their roles among the patients and fellow health care providers.

In addition to our experiences in the clinic, we visited the first hospital in the western hemisphere, San Nicolas de Bari, which contributed to my great love of medicine with culture that we could not experience anywhere else in the world. The benefit of attending a study abroad is exemplified in this experience! We can learn medicine anywhere, but we can only have these cultural experiences while studying abroad.

Finally, we worked closely with the UNIBE medical school students throughout the week of the study abroad. It was an eye-opening experience being able to contrast my American medical school opinions with those in the Dominican Republic. The most distinguishing feature of the Dominican medical school system was their continuity of undergraduate and medical school education. Instead of completing an undergraduate education and then applying to medical school, they are combined into one eight-year curriculum. It was fascinating having conversations with Dominican students and sharing pros and cons of using one system over the other. These are the experiences that cannot be duplicated anywhere else except on study abroad.

I encourage all students, whether pre-med, nursing, or PA to attend one of the many meaningful programs offered by the Institute for Global Health. By participating, you will be diversifying your health care knowledge and adding meaningful experience to your education.

Visiting The Instituto de Medicina Tropical y Salud Global at UNIBE University with Dr. Paulino, M.D.

Brittany Ladson, MSU student.
MICHAEL FRANCIS: MEXICAN HEALTH SYSTEM EXPERIENCE

I didn’t have many opportunities to travel prior to medical school, so the prospect of international medical outreach was important in my search for a program. MSUCOM’s International Osteopathic Medicine Organization offers opportunities for students like myself that have always dreamt of seeing the world while serving others along the way. Through the organization, I spent a week in Merida, Mexico and can genuinely say it was one of the best experiences of my life.

The students on the trip were sectioned off into groups and sent to rotate in a different healthcare specialty each day. There, we would shadow physicians and assist in history taking, physical exams, and even surgical procedures. Full immersion into the culture made for a novel experience that any other vacation surely could not offer. Not only was I now exclusively speaking Spanish everywhere I went (and picking up more and more each day!), but I was doing it in a hospital setting through the lens of a provider. That week I had the chance to see the healthcare system of México macroscopically, nothing different in each general specialty compared to the United States, as well as through a more microscopic view, attending to patients individually.

In addition to our time spent in the hospital, the trip featured several excursions that I won’t soon forget. The students were given the chance to visit and swim in a nearby cenote, a natural cavernous pool known for their breathtaking scenery. We also spent a day at Chichén Itzá, walking the grounds of the Mayan city with a private tour guide providing backstory on the rich heritage of the area. We all stopped for pictures in front of El Castillo, the picturesque pyramid named one of the seven wonders of the new world and before we left, we took the chance to practice some osteopathic manipulative medicine with the most beautiful back drop we’ll likely ever have. Each day also brought the chance to try a new restaurant or visit a new part of Mérida. The dishes in the area were delicious and the ambience of the city looked to be made for amazing nights out.

This trip was more than I could have ever asked for. It was a full day of medicine and service with evenings spent among friends in a breathtaking location. There was never a dull moment and I left Mérida completely fulfilled. For those considering this trip, I could not recommend it enough and I’m extremely grateful to MSUCOM whom afforded me the opportunity.

LUCY BOLERJACK AND ANDREW LOGINSKY: SOUTH KOREA INTERNATIONAL ELECTIVE

Are you a medical student interested in exploring surgical fields? Do you enjoy exploring new cultures? If you answered yes to both of these, the South Korea trip could be the perfect opportunity for you! Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine offers a one-week trip to Seoul, South Korea every August, that provides students with a great balance between clinical exposure and authentic cultural experiences.

During the day, students spend the week shadowing surgeons at the Anam Hospital – Korea University Medical Center. Shadowing opportunities range from state of the art robotic and reconstructive plastic surgeries, to open chest operations and more. In addition to observing procedures, students are occasionally invited to sit in during case presentation meetings and join attendings while they do pre- or post-op rounds on their patients. One day during the week is spent in a Traditional Korean Medicine facility, Jaseng Hospital of Korean Medicine, where students learn about the similarities and differences between Traditional Korean and Western medicine.

Outside of the hospital, students are able to see a variety of iconic sites throughout the city. Although Seoul’s intricate streets can feel overwhelming, Sung Soo Chung, Associate Director of Michigan State University Institute for Global Health, leads the trip with wonderful suggestions that are flexible to the group’s wishes. These activities include but are not limited to visiting historic districts, visiting popular shopping areas, and experiencing traditional Korean meals. Students are housed in a hotel and transported by bus to the hospital only in the morning, allowing them to explore the city via subway in the evening.

I participated in August 2018, which was between the summer and fall semester of my second year of medical training. The timing of the Seoul trip is unique to medical students of the Osteopathic College because it is one of the few medical trips that occurs during a break longer than one week. Therefore, students have a chance to arrive early or travel nearby before the hospital and group portion of the trip begins. I explored Seoul for almost a full week before the program started, which included an unbelievable day trip to the DMZ. Other classmates chose to visit areas such as Jeju Island, Korea, or even Tokyo, Japan.

Overall, the trip was unforgettable and filled with invaluable experiences that I believe will only positively impact my medical training and practice. I urge anyone qualified to participate to consider joining, since words alone do not do the city justice.
In early April 2019, eleven students from the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine traveled to Havana, Cuba to immerse themselves in Cuban culture and the healthcare system. Many student groups from MSU COM participated in the trip to Cuba previously, and past students spoke very highly of both the Cuban medical field and culture. This most recent group spent two weeks in Cuba at the Hospital Calixto Garcia, rotating between one week in internal medicine and one week on general surgery.

As a fourth-year medical student, I was beyond ecstatic for this opportunity. The country has always been this far-off dreamland, given its limited accessibility. Within hours of landing, all of my expectations of rich culture and people were quickly surpassed. I didn’t expect years of beautiful history, strong pride in the revolution (even 60 years later!), and genuine respect for fellow citizens.

The days at Hospital Calixto Garcia were very similar to the ones in the United States, despite some obvious differences like the physical appearance of the open-air hospital. Our mornings started with sign out with the general surgery team, followed by surgery and internal medicine rounds, respectively. The Cuban residents and medical students welcomed our group with open arms and were eager to practice their medical English. After rounds, the internal medicine group would participate in teaching sessions, while the surgery team would attend to scheduled surgeries. Hospital Calixto Garcia also serves as one of the largest trauma hospitals on the island and it would not be uncommon to see multiple patients involved in motor vehicle accidents per day.

One true focus of our trip was to observe the significant emphasis on preventative care and public health missions within Cuba. Most Cuban primary care physicians live in the same neighborhood as their patients. After meeting with some family medicine physicians we soon realized how closely knit these communities were, specifically concerning healthcare. One of the family medicine residents could recite exactly how many patients were in his domain and specific percentages of who had various chronic diseases. When discussing infant and child vaccination rates in Cuba, we were surprised to learn about the heavy involvement of family members and neighbors if a parent chooses not to vaccinate their child.

Many discussions while in Cuba revolved around the low rate of neonatal mortality, even compared to more developed North American countries. Part of this was attributed to the significant access to primary care in Cuba; pregnant women see their physicians at least twice monthly throughout all of pregnancy and had multiple options for home care visits. Additionally, pregnant women can choose to be admitted to the maternal care hospitals for periods of rest throughout pregnancy, or for high risk pregnancies.

Not only did we interact with Cuban physicians and healthcare teams, but we also met many medical students and residents from countries all over the world. Cuban medical schools are highly regarded internationally and most have a significant percentage of international students, primarily from Sub-Saharan Africa and Central America. Most of the international students speak no Spanish upon arrival to Cuba and within weeks have mastered both conversational and medical Spanish.

Cuba, a country only 90 miles away from the United States, has such a vibrance and energy that can’t be experienced anywhere else. Perhaps this is because there is such an influence on the arts and you can hear the beats of salsa music everywhere you turn. This developing country combines the lustrous energy of the bustle of the city, with the slow island-time feel that helps you relax. My gratitude extends to MSU as well for the years of planning and collaboration for this trip. Not many people can say they finished off their medical school career in Havana, and for this, I am very grateful.

Muchas gracias por todo! Viva Cuba!

KOREAN SOCIETY OF CHUNA MANUAL MEDICINE EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The Institute for Global Health has hosted Global Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM) and Korean Society of Chuna Manual Medicine for Spine and Nerves (KSCMM) Exchange Program every summer since 2013. This year, twelve Korean medicine physicians visited MSU to exchange their practices in an advanced level of OMM. This program was for 2 weeks starting July 22, 2019.
For the past two years, the Institute for Global Health (IGH) at Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (MSUCOM) has been serving as a consultant for the Armed Forces College of Medicine (AFCM) to assist in their revision of their medical education curriculum. The agreement with AFCM and MSUCOM provides the following: global health observer-ship for medical students, faculty development programs, and nursing faculty development training program.

AFCM matriculated their first class of students six years ago. The process of admission to the medical school is arduous requiring AFCM cadets to not only pass a battery of psychological and physical tests to meet the demands of a military career but also possess knowledge and attitudes necessary to succeed as a physician in contemporary healthcare.

IGH and its team of experts are tasked with working with the AFCM medical educators to transition their curriculum from a 6 +1 (six years of medical school followed by one year of clinical training) to a 5 + 2 model (five years of medical school followed by two years of clinical training) which more closely aligns with medical education in the United States. Patricia Sexton, A.T. Still University Associate Dean for Curriculum and Professor of Family Medicine comments: “Our work with AFCM in the curriculum and assessment realm has been generative and collaborative. I have found the administrative team to be well versed in medical education knowledge and practices and receptive to recommendations for change. Likewise, the faculty are invested in student learning and open to enhancing their delivery in every way possible. We have reviewed the current curriculum and continue to provide input into the emerging integrated curriculum while also co-creating the internship curriculum”.

AFCM’s goal is to prepare their graduates to pass the exams that will enable them to qualify for residencies and additional training in the United States in addition to other countries. A key element in this plan is for cadets to have access to evidence-based medical literature, libraries and databases online. The MSU team is working closely with the AFCM IT team to expand access to key educational resources to enhance success.

The MSU team has embraced the cultural aspects of consulting abroad and living in a Muslim country. The medical students are very disciplined and have a passion for learning that is insatiable. Professionalism and accountability are the foundations of the medical cadets training. The MSU team is partnering with educators and researchers at AFCM to develop sustainable programs that both Colleges can continue to actively promote. Various experts on the MSU consultation team continuously note the progress and outcomes of the work being done. According to Dr. Mary Kay Smith, Chair of the Faculty Development Committee, “It is so rewarding to facilitate so many diverse professional development programs. The commitment of AFCM leadership and active engagement of faculty has resulted in significant growth. Each time we visit, it is so apparent that they apply innovative strategies which benefit their cadets and ultimately patients. I believe they are well-situated to be the leader in medical education in Egypt!”

“The assessment practices are in a quality improvement process that is impressive. All-in-all, our partnership fosters zeal to continue learning together which will serve to create a preeminent medical institution in Egypt. I am proud to play a small role in this work”, Patricia Sexton expressed.

Over three thousand years ago, the center of the universe was Egypt and Alexandria was the jewel city of the world. Egyptian physicians were teaching the Romans and Greeks the principles of medicine, some of which are still in practice today. The MSU team is privileged to work with and learn from AFCM and its medical educators in training the next generation of leaders, physicians and faculty for Egypt, the Middle East, Africa and the world. We are excited to be a small part of their growth process to a world class medical school.
2019 is the second year for Chinese students to participate in the IGH Global Health Care Professional Shadowing Program. Fifteen public health students and fourteen nursing students came to MSU for an eight-week learning experience. The program is composed of four parts: professional shadowing, language learning, academic enhancement, and community engagement.

Professional shadowing is the focus of this program. Public health students went to the Ingham County Health Department and shadowed with doctors, nurses, administrators, and other specialists. The students had a unique opportunity to learn about the American public health system and how it serves the people, especially the vulnerable population. They were impressed and touched by the professionalism and passion demonstrated by the American staff.

Most of the nursing students have not fully experienced hospitals before they came to MSU. During the program, the students had a three-week shadowing experience at the McLaren Great Lansing hospital. They got to observe the work at most units and learn first-hand how nurses and doctors work together to provide quality treatment to patients. Some students were able to talk to patients and their family members and learn about American patients’ experiences directly. Students were deeply impressed by the humanistic care in the hospital. They reflected on Chinese hospital practices and had a better understanding of the differences between the two countries.

Language learning and academic enhancement took place in the setting of the classroom. Students were exposed to student-centered learning in their English class. They commented on how they never knew learning a language could be so much fun. Many of them changed their attitude to learning English from a burden to an enjoyable activity.

Community engagement is very important and meaningful to both the students and the local community. The public health students had an opportunity to visit and meet with members at a site of the Meals on Wheels program in Lansing through the Tri-County Office on Aging. All students helped pack the meals for the program as volunteers. Students presented to the senior citizens at the Prime Time of East Lansing. They showed and led the group to practice Tai Chi and Chinese Wuqinxi, which is an ancient Chinese practice mimicking five different birds’ movement. They also introduced how the Chinese use herbs in cooking to cultivate a healthy diet. The nursing students demonstrated some traditional Chinese techniques to treat body pain and physical problems. The exchange activities were so well received by the senior citizens that they wanted to learn more in the future.

The students learned and broadened their horizon in health and health care through this program. They enjoyed and cherished their experience with American professionals.

### 2019 PATENGE AWARD

The MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine will recognized four distinguished leaders with its highest honor, The Walter F. Patenge Medal of Public Service, on May 13.

The winners honored for their commitment to excellence in medicine, government and public service, are Tressa K. Gardner, Sandra Kilbourn, Mark Notman and Terrie Taylor.

Dr. Taylor, a University Distinguished Professor and an internationally recognized scientist and physician, has waged a 33-year battle against malaria. She spends six months of the year in Malawi, conducting malaria research and treating patients, the majority of whom are children. She co-founded the Blantyre Malaria Project to carry out outstanding research and patient care in the area of pediatric cerebral malaria. Taylor has been the recipient of countless honors and awards, has authored and co-authored well over 200 peer-reviewed publications and has received over $35 million in grant awards.
STUDENTS HONORED FOR COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY:
TWO MSUCOM STUDENTS HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED WITH AWARDS CONNECTED TO SERVICE AND COMMUNITY CARE

ELIZABETH HENLEY

Third-year MSUCOM student Elizabeth Henley has been awarded a Schweitzer Fellowship from the Detroit Chapter of Albert Schweitzer Fellowship. Henley will spend the next year using her $2,000 award to develop a yoga program among Detroit’s homeless population.

She’ll work with Richard Bryce, assistant professor at the Detroit Medical Center site, and Dean Carpenter, a nurse at the Neighborhood Service Organization’s Tumaini Center, as part of Detroit Street Care to make “Yoga for the Homeless” a sustainable program.

The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship is a national initiative designed to promote humanitarian values among health and human service graduate students. Detroit is one of 14 chapters in the United States.

ELISABETH ARNDT

Elisabeth “Lissie” Arndt, second-year D.O.-Ph.D. student, has been awarded the U.S. Public Health Service’s Excellence in Public Health Award. Greg Scherle, a USPHS captain presented her the honor during the D.O.-Ph.D. Program award banquet on April 26.

The award recognizes medical students who advance public health in their communities.

While at MSUCOM, Arndt has been active in the Spartan Street Medicine outreach initiative through the Community Integrated Medicine student organization.

Before beginning her D.O. program and a Ph.D. in anthropology, Arndt was an AmeriCorps volunteer at a Federally Qualified Health Center in New York’s Hudson Valley. Her responsibilities included community outreach, patient education programs, and running youth group classes. She also assisted the clinic’s staff with observational studies, consumer advocacy and quality improvement projects.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March
• Study Abroad: Mexico, Guatemala, Haiti, Dominican Republic

April
• Study Abroad: Cuba

May
• Study Abroad: Cuba, Nepal

August
• Study Abroad: Peru, South Korea

December
• Study Abroad: Cuba