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Background: Now more than ever, US medical trainees have taken an interest in incorporating global health into their training. By 2004, 22.3% of graduating medical students had participated in an international health experience compared to 5.9% in 1978 (I-2). Opportunities available range from short 4-week culture and language immersion experiences, to yearlong research programs, or formal training programs in epidemiology or subspecialties in locations scattered throughout the globe.

Despite the rapidly growing number of opportunities, students and residents often find themselves lost in a sea of rich, but scattered resources. A brief review of most medical school global health websites indicates that information to help trainees find and prepare for global health experiences abroad is scattered, incomplete, and not current.

To address this organizational and structural problem, we sought to organize the currently available global health educational resources for medical students and residents, and present them in a single, open-access, volunteer-run web portal (globalhealthhub.org), that can be collectively maintained by the global health community.


Structure/Method/Design: Our methodology can be divided into three sections: 1) creating a catalogue of global health resources with which we were already familiar, and forming categories to divide those resources; 2) performing a Google World Wide Web search to expand on those resources, and refining categories into eight sections including events, reference, travel, career, online education, journal watch, funding, and online community, as displayed on "Resources" page on globalhealthhub.org; 3) receiving feedback from users via email for future iterations.

Results: We found that there was an overwhelming number of free resources available online for medical students and residents. Initially, 360 unique links were generated from approximately 180 websites, including over 40 academic institutions.

We quickly realized that many of these resources can be used by the broader global health community, beyond just trainees. Certain categories, such education and references, may be of particular use among global health practitioners in low-resource settings. Prototype feedback from our peers and colleagues has been optimistic, confirming the lack of similar databases and the need for such within the global health community. Our resource database is still early in its release; we are just beginning to receive feedback from users, which so far has been positive.

A doctor of my own: A documentary on medical education in Sub-Saharan Africa

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Background: The need to capacitate the health care workforce in Sub-Saharan Africa has been the subject of avid interest in view of the rampant AIDS epidemic and continued health disparities. The role of effective media in drawing attention to the plight of medical education on the subcontinent has not previously been examined. Using the University of Namibia School of Medicine as an illustrative example, the objective of this project was to record the challenges of establishing a new medical school in a low- to middle-income country in Sub-Saharan Africa by filming an investigative documentary.

Structure/Method/Design: A small film crew traveled to Namibia to capture firsthand accounts and field experiences of the day-to-day challenges of health care delivery in the context of the recent opening of the country’s first medical school. The film crew, under the guidance of clinical and medical education faculty members from Vanderbilt University and University of Namibia School of Medicine, immersed themselves for 8 weeks in rural clinics in Namibia and conducted interviews with leadership, students, and allied health workers in the field.

Results: The documentary investigated three themes of relevance to current medical education in Africa:
(1) Innovations in teaching doctors within resource-limited settings, including a unique “community excursion program” in the students’ third year of training. The program, which was designed to inform students of the needs of poorly funded rural communities in their own country, provides a hands-on approach to learning medicine. After working in such an environment, many students who had previously desired a career in private practice, wanted instead to work rural clinics after graduation.
(2) The importance of developing context-specific medical competency training. Because of the immense shortage of health care workers, the documentary furthermore highlights interprofessional learning as a valuable teaching aid. Interacting with patients alongside skilled nurses, medical students work as an integral part of the health care team in areas where no doctors exist.
(3) Initiatives aimed to stem the “brain drain” of physician graduates from Sub-Saharan Africa. Interviews of health care workers and students in village clinics indicate that, despite adequate mone-
yary compensation, poor lifestyle, and a dearth of medical resources are significant disincentives to remain working in the villages. The admission policy’s “regional quota system” is an effort to recruit and retain more students from the communities that the school eventually wants its graduates to serve.

We have documented several limitations and strategies involved in the ongoing establishment of the University of Namibia School of Medicine. Anticipation of these challenges may assist other medical schools in Sub-Saharan Africa currently in the development process.

American Heart Association (AHA) Basic Cardiac Life Support (BCLS) course and introduction to emergency medicine module taught by American medical students to Haitian medical students improves fund of knowledge performance and self-efficacy scores through

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Background: The Medical Students for Haiti (MS4H) chapter at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai recently combined near-peer teaching and academic twinning paradigms in collaboration with...
the medical division at Université Quisqueya (UniQ) in Port-au-Prince, Haiti to certify UniQ students in the AHA BCLS course and teach a brief module on emergency response skills over a 1-week period in March 2013. The need for intervention was demonstrated by a paucity of clinical exposure and emergency response material within the existing UniQ curriculum as reported by faculty and students at the institution. MS4H sought to meet this gap through a near-peer module supplemental to UniQ’s existing medical education curriculum.

Structure/Method/Design: Ten near-peer Mount Sinai medical students certified as AHA BCLS Instructors coordinated an educational module for UniQ students focusing on emergency response skills. The program format consisted of 5 to 10 hours of small group instruction in French per day on the UniQ campus spanning 1 week and covering subjects such as approaching the patient and trauma in the field. Senior Haitian medical students also conducted 1 day of instruction teaching American medical students topics on infectious disease and public health. To assess improvements made by UniQ students in clinical knowledge and comfort with the skills taught, a 20-question, 6-point Likert Scale self-efficacy survey as well as a 27-question multiple choice fund of knowledge assessment was distributed pre- and post-intervention.

Results (Scientific Abstract)/Collaborative Partners (Programmatic Abstract): Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Université Quisqueya

Summary/Conclusion: Results: 75 UniQ students were successfully certified in AHA BCLS. Self-efficacy survey results demonstrated Haitian medical students rated their comfort with basic emergency response skills as significantly higher after the course (post-intervention score of 4.35 vs. pre-intervention score of 2.19, min = 0 max = 5, n = 53, P < 0.005). Students given pre- and post-module fund of knowledge exams also showed statistically significant improvements in scores after the emergency skills module (pre-module score average of 35.19% vs. post-module average of 57.02%, P < 0.005, n = 53). The program was well received and MS4H was invited to run the program for a second year.

Conclusions: We propose this model of near-peer, cross-cultural academic exchange can be a sustainable, reproducible, and mutually beneficial collaboration between North American and Haitian medical students. Future iterations of the program will emphasize increased collaboration between Haitian and American counterparts in curriculum design, implementation of more Haitian medical students as instructors, more rigorous data analysis, and assessing the effect of the program on American participants’ attitudes toward global health.

Implementing an effective leadership and management training program for clinical and public health laboratory directors and other mid senior-level managers in the Middle East

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Background: A lack of strong and effective leadership is one of the many factors cited for the slow progression toward achieving the health Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Medical laboratories—an essential component in the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Integrated Framework Model for Health System—are critical to ensuring effective health care management and service delivery. This professional certificate program is designed to build the leadership and management capacity of mid-career laboratory directors and other management staff in clinical and public health laboratories in the Middle East. The program utilizes a blended learning approach of in-person workshops and e-learning courses. The graduates of this program are expected to make practical and meaningful improvements to their laboratory’s operations through the completion of a hands-on capstone project.

Structure/Method/Design: This 9-month professional certificate program provides training in five focal areas:

1. Laboratory Systems and Quality Management—in-country workshop
2. Laboratory Leadership and Management—Global Classroom
3. Law and Regulation of Laboratory Practice—Global Classroom
4. Implementation of Diagnostic Technology—Global Classroom
5. Analysis and Communication of Laboratory Information—Global Classroom

The Capstone Project provides an opportunity for each participant to work with his or her laboratory to:

- Identify an area for improvement in the laboratory operations
- Expand his or her leadership, management, analytical, and communication skills
- Implement principles of continuous quality improvement
- Further develop an area of interest within the laboratory systems

The Learning Management System is a Web-based software application used for the administration, documentation, tracking, reporting, and delivery of e-learning courses and contains:

- All program content: reading materials, video lectures, and links to online resources—organized into modules for easy navigation
- Communications capabilities: discussion boards for group collaboration, individual messaging, notifications and announcements
- Posting and tracking of assignments and deliverables, schedule, and due-date reminders
- Unit and course evaluation surveys

Mentorship is a key component of the participants training framework. Mentors help create and sustain a supportive and positive learning environment for each of the participants throughout the entire program:

- Support participants throughout the online coursework and the Capstone Project
- Provide coaching, problem solving, and motivation as needed
- Monitor participants’ progress as they implement their projects in their laboratories
- Evaluate the participants’ overall performance in the program

Results (Scientific Abstract)/Collaborative Partners (Programmatic Abstract): Currently, 17 participants from 10 countries are enrolled in this program.

Summary/Conclusion: We believe that strong and pragmatic leadership combined with effective management of clinical and public