May 7, 2014

CU CDM Global Health Mission – Kenya 2014
Request for Applications

Dear Students,

Some of you may have heard of CDM’s collaboration with Columbia University Global Centers and more specifically our project entitled “Children’s Global Oral Health Initiative” in Africa funded by the President’s Global Innovation Fund (see attached).

After our successful planning mission in January, we are scheduled to return for a project mission around mid-June. As such, we are requesting applications from 2nd and 3rd year students who are interested in scholarly activity in the areas of:

1. Health Promotion/Disease Prevention – e.g., water fluoridation and fluorosis, health education including teaching non professionals preventive techniques
2. Oral Cancer screening and prevention – eg., conduct educational workshops for community oral health workers
3. Study the role of nutrition in disease and development (in collaboration with CUMC Institute of Nutrition)
4. Oral manifestations of HIV – assess sensitivity of rapid HIV saliva testing (OraQuick)®
5. Integrating Telehealth Tools – use of intraoral cameras, google glass, remote health monitoring systems etc.
6. Other innovative ideas are welcome as well (think APPS)

All the above resources have been set up already. You are expected to come up with an innovative project that would advance the health of local populations both at home and abroad. Above all, we hope you would have advanced your own knowledge and understanding of your discipline via field study and scholarly research.

Eligibility criteria: (same as CDM GHE guidelines plus...)

1. Students have to be in good academic standing
2. Have demonstrated an interest (and skills/experience) in above areas of study. Future plans of working with children is also desirable
3. An Innovative proposal (300 words) describing your project. Please list title, specific aim(s), methodology, expected impact and briefly state why you are best qualified for this project (bullet points preferred). Submit this to:
   • Dr. Salentijn (lm23@cumc.columbia.edu)
   • Dr. Lal (sl784@cumc.columbia.edu)
   • Dr. Zubiaurre (laz1@cumc.columbia.edu)
   • Sandra Garcia (sb64@cumc.columbia.edu)
4. Completed GHE paperwork (waiver and health forms attached). The dean has also asked for parental knowledge of this mission with written approval. They can co-sign the waiver along with the applicant and submit a note/email of approval.
**Other features of this mission:**

1. A group of 5-7 faculty and students from CUMC will be recruited for this inter-professional mission. The mentioned topics of study offer significant overlap across disciplines thereby providing collaborative opportunities.
2. We are away for 10-14 days (to be confirmed. Some individuals may leave earlier depending on the project).
3. While traditional GHE’s provide important clinical services, our mission will focus more on capacity building i.e., training local personnel to better care for themselves and working with millennium villages and earth institute staff to do so.
4. Expected work sites in Kenya include CU Global Center in Nairobi (base), Aids orphanage, Nairobi Dental School including their outreach activities, Maasai Mara community clinic (optional).
5. Expected professional activities for students include participating in training workshops, data collection and analysis with the aim to publish. Lastly, there will be an opportunity for clinical screenings and service. Please note that in some cases, the research project may take more time and can be handed over to next years externs.

**Risks and Benefits:**

1. The risks involved in this mission are similar to other GHE sites such as infectious diseases, food poisoning, travel related hazards in developing countries etc.. Additional risks include proximity to wild animals (for those of you who opt for community projects in the maasai mara). Nairobi has also had 1-2 terror related incidents. While Academic Dean Dr. Salentijn and I had a wonderful and safe trip in January, it is important for us to disclose the risks. Africa isn’t for everybody.
2. The benefits are many and include an opportunity to positively impact arguably the most vulnerable population on the planet while honing in on your research and clinical skills. An added bonus includes an opportunity to witness “the great animal migration”, an annual event which starts in June. You can do this on a safari or a hot air balloon ride over the maasai mara. The CU global centers assist with logistics and planning your experience.

**Costs:**

Depending on the number (and quality) of applications received, we may offer 2 tracks:
- Scholarly/research track with $2000 support
- Service track with $1000 support

The total estimated cost with optional safari is $3000 (it is high season in June!) The deadline for submitting your proposals is next week Monday, May 12 at 2pm. Results will be announced the next day. Selected students must be prepared to purchase their tickets that week and initiate vaccination protocol. We apologize for the short notice but there were a lot of ’moving parts’ to organizing a project such as this one. I will have office hours on Monday, May 12 from 11-1pm to meet with students and answer other questions. My office is on PH17W, 302A.

Best always, Dr Lal