A Multidisciplinary approach to global health at DGSOM: Fall 2020

This Global Health Selective is facilitated by faculty and staff from DGSOM’s Global Health Program (GHP), as well as DGSOM medical students who applied for leadership roles after participating in the Selective last year. Due to COVID-19, all Selective events will be held virtually this year. Now more than ever, we look forward to rich discussions around the pressing health challenges facing the world today — both overseas and here in Los Angeles.

The Selective is designed for first year medical students with a variety of backgrounds; no prior exposure to global health is required. This course serves as an opportunity for students to (1) learn about multidisciplinary issues in global health, including applications of global healthy equity with local relevance, and (2) engage with UCLA faculty from across schools who are performing innovative and compelling global health work. Leaders from diverse disciplines speak to students on a variety of global health topics, such as ethics in conducting global health clinical practice and research; infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS and emerging diseases like COVID-19; non-communicable diseases and the double burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases in global and local underserved settings; women’s, children’s, and reproductive health; gender and racial equity; global surgical needs; health and human rights; health care infrastructure and technology; and policy strategies to help address global health challenges. The Selective offers a unique opportunity to form meaningful relationships with global health faculty, who may become important colleagues and/or mentors for future longitudinal global health activities while at DGSOM. It also allows students to gain a better understanding on how to build a career in global health.

Student requirements: Fall semester only, with attendance at 7 lunch lectures, 2 mandatory small-group discussions on a specific topic, and 3 evening events, including: World Health Night and 2 evening roundtables. Two absences are permitted, (one lunch lecture and one evening event) and additional “bonus” attendance opportunities will be offered to assist students in meeting the minimum attendance requirements. We encourage students to attend and participate actively in as many Selective activities as possible! The approximate time commitment is 20-25 hours.

Objectives:
At the end of the course, participants should be able to:
- Understand the multidisciplinary nature of global health issues
- Formulate ideas to address global health challenges in an ethical manner
- Understand the concerns and needs of medically underserved populations
- Examine health and disease from a cross-cultural perspective
- Assume leadership roles in addressing global health issues as students and future physicians
- Form relationships with UCLA global health faculty to allow for mentorship for future projects and throughout a career in medicine

Faculty leadership: Selective Course Chair – Hijab Zubairi, MD
Course Co-Chair – Traci Wells, PhD
Director, Global Health Program – Risa Hoffman, MD, MPH

Supporting staff: GHP Administrative Specialist – Vijeta Vaswani, MPH
MS2 student leaders: Janet Adeola, Will Belshe, Angela Bi, Ryan Elliott, and Fiona Obiezu
GHP website: http://www.worldhealth.med.ucla.edu
Teaching methods: Cross-disciplinary guest lectures, small-group discussions, and interactive panel and/or roundtable discussions
Enrollment: No minimum or maximum number of students
Sponsoring college: Primary Care College
Schedule: All course events will begin in September, 2020 and finish in early December, 2020
Location: All events to take place virtually via Zoom