

The Uganda Experience

Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra / Northwell



Interested in a Global Health elective during your fourth year?

The Uganda experience is a unique 6 week elective in both clinical and community medicine that takes place in a very remote rural region of Uganda, the Kisoro district.

The Uganda rotation focuses on developing the cognitive and clinical skills most valuable to students interested in the fields of Medicine, Family Medicine, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, Emergency Medicine and Ob-gyn.

The 2-week Zucker SOM Global Health Course in June of MSIV is a *required* accompaniment.





BACKGROUND

The district of Kisoro occupies the far southwestern corner of Uganda, a few miles from both Rwanda to the south and the Congo to the west. It's poor and remote, a beautifully rugged land of sharp hills, towering volcanoes, and serpentine lakes accessible only after hours of precipitous dirt roads. By rural measures, it's overpopulated, which means the steep over-farmed soil can't support the number of people who live on and draw sustenance from it, and a land where women commonly have 7- 8 children, their only means of social security.

The Kisoro District Hospital (KDH) is the public hospital in the district of 270,000, the hospital where people don't pay. Kisoro Hospital is very underfunded, especially for such a remote facility where more would have to be offered to attract health professionals e.g. doctors earn less than \$4000 USD *per year* with little potential for a private practice to supplement income. In cities, the earning potential is at least twice that. The hospital is thus understaffed at every level: Three young physicians are responsible for over 150 beds comprising Medicine, Surgery, Pediatrics and Obstetrics/GYN Wards and bustling General Medicine and HIV clinics (with 150-200 patient visits/day).

It's here in Kisoro that we can address serious need, and thus here that we work - Doctors for Global Health (an Einstein-affiliated, US-based NGO), faculty and residents from Montefiore's Medicine and Primary Care/Social Medicine Programs, Medicine residents from Northwell, and Einstein and Zucker SOM students.



The Uganda experience is complemented by a **2-week Global Health course in New York**, before your trip. This will take place in June of your 4th year. The course will emphasize public health with a focus on Africa and Uganda, as well as clinical case workshops.



THE 6 WEEKS IN KISORO

Medicine Wards: the first 4 weeks

Four to six students work on the male and female wards of Kisoro Hospital with Montefiore and Northwell residents and Montefiore Global Health faculty. Students work up and follow daily all patients admitted to their ward, an average of 2-3 admissions per day per student.

Accurate diagnosis depends on epidemiologic probability, history and physical, and astute clinical judgment that incorporates the time course and severity of symptoms, sensitivity to the cultural expressions of stress, and judicious and often step-wise use of empiric therapy.

The lab facilities are basic. Tests include ESR, CBC, AFB and malaria smears, basic microscopy, HIV and CD4, EKG, chest X-ray (when there's film), ultrasound (when there's electricity), and recently GeneXpert for TB diagnosis. We bring glucometers and U/A strips.

Two PGY IIIs from Montefiore and Northwell work with students on the wards. The resident and attending supervise as resident/attending team. They round with each student individually every day and hold Teaching Rounds, with all students, on 4-6 of the most interesting patients from 2:00-4:30PM. During rounds, History, Physical Exam and Clinical Reasoning are emphasized.

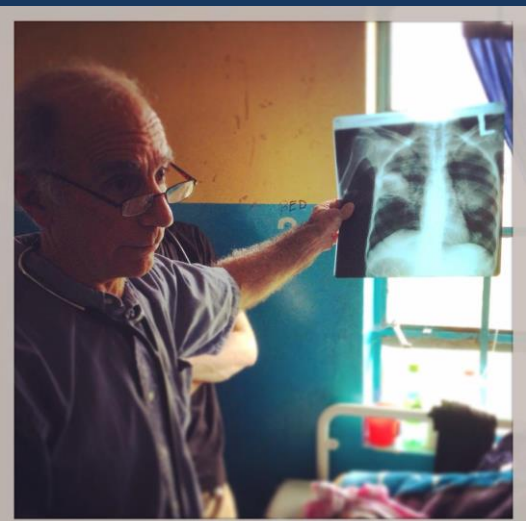
The work week during the first 4 weeks is about 60-65 hours, with a mix of both inpatient wards and clinic. You will work one of the two weekend days.

All students work with translators, one-on-one, during their time on the wards, in the clinic, and later in the community.

Community Experience: the last 2 weeks

We will organize a variety of activities in the field to get exposure to our various community projects. These may include the Village Health Worker program, the Follow-up program, Chronic Disease in the community (CDCom), women's health outreaches, mental health outreaches, geriatrics, among others. There will be weekly outpatient medicine experience throughout the 6 weeks.

The SOM covers housing, utilities, translators, Kisoro transport to communities, educational and program costs. Students are responsible for flight, transportation and food expenses.



A photograph of a rural landscape. In the foreground, a person is walking away from the camera on a dirt path that leads into a field. The field has rows of plants, possibly coffee or tea. To the right of the path, there are large, leafy plants, some with yellow flowers. In the background, there are more trees and a small building with a corrugated metal roof. The sky is clear and blue.

APPLICATION

1. Notify Dr. Gloria Fung Chaw (gfungchaw@gmail.com) of your potential interest by email
2. Fill out the [application](#) and submit to Dr. Fung Chaw via email as soon as possible. Applications are due December 20th
3. An interview will be scheduled for December or January

Contact information:

Gloria Fung Chaw, MD
gfungchaw@gmail.com
gfungch@montefiore.org