GHP Taiwan

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Resources

- TUCOM Global Health Program Website
  - [http://com.tu.edu/globalhealth/taiwan.html](http://com.tu.edu/globalhealth/taiwan.html)

- 2) Taiwan GHP Blogs
  - [http://globalhealthtaiwan.blogspot.com/](http://globalhealthtaiwan.blogspot.com/)

- 3) tustudentlife Forums
  - [http://www.tustudentlife.com/forums/](http://www.tustudentlife.com/forums/) >> Taiwan

- 4) Taipei Hospital
Why should I go?

1. Program Goals

1. Rotations

1. Extracurricular activities
   ● Rural medicine: Guanshan, Taiwan Root
   ● Scholarly activities

1. National Health Insurance

1. Social/Cultural
Program Goals

- Gain experience in aspects of medicine beyond the core curriculum
- Gain knowledge of diseases that are uncommon in USA
- Observe and develop existing clinical skills
- Broaden public health knowledge
- Recognize and understand the relationship between medicine and society in another culture (medical problems, medical ethics, law, health care system, etc)
Taiwan

- **Population:**
  - 23,374,000 (2014)

- **Ethnic group:**
  - 98% Han Chinese
  - 2% Aborigines

- **Official Script:**
  - Traditional Chinese

- **Religion:**
  - Buddhism/Taoism (70% of the 80% religious)
Cultural Differences

Patient attitude toward healthcare & Healthcare worker attitude toward patients vs. U.S. healthcare system
National Health Insurance

- Taiwan’s National Health Insurance (NHI)
  - Instituted in 1995 promised equal access to health care for all citizens

- Financed through tax, out-of-pocket payments and direct government funding

- Low cost for patients
  - Increased patients visits causing limiting visit time
  - ~ 2 to 8 mins per patients
  - How do you establish a human connection if you only have five minutes?
Taipei Hospital

- Located in New Taipei City

- Medium-sized community hospital
  - 375 general beds/162 specialty beds

- 10 minute walk from the metro
  - 30-minute metro ride to Taipei’s most bustling areas
Rotations

- Pulmonology
- Emergency Medicine
- General Surgery
- Gastrointestinal
- Ob/Gyn
- Traditional Chinese Medicine
- Cardiology
- Endocrinology
- Nephrology
- Hematology/Oncology
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Rotation - Pulmonology

- H1N1
- XRAB
- Tuberculosis
- Pneumonia
- X-RAYS!

Thoracocentesis →

Pneumothorax ←
Rotation - Traditional Chinese Medicine

- Acupuncture - used a lot for post-rehabilitation (stroke, spinal injury)
- musculoskeletal manipulative technique with Dr Ho
Rotation - General Surgery

Laparoscopic procedures (e.g. appendectomy)

Laparoscopic APR

Coronary artery bypass graft →
Rotation - Cardiology

Catheter lab →

← Ultrasound
Rotation - Hematology/Oncology

**Out-Patient**

**In-Patient**

- smaller patient population due to size of the hospital and limitations to treatment
  - some oncology patients are managed by the general surgeons

ONE attending physician of hem/onc - Dr Chen!!!
Rotation - Nephrology

Hemodialysis Center

Peritoneal Dialysis Training
Rotation - Endocrinology

Thyroid Ultrasound
Rotation - Gastroenterology

Gastroscopy (~5 min) & Colonoscopy (~10 min)

- basic idea = same
- Usually **WITHOUT** sedatives
- Look for ulcers and polyps
- similar recommendations as U.S.
Rotation - Ob/Gyn and OPD

- Pap smears and Ultrasounds
- Cervical cone biopsy
- Myoma
- Rectocele
- Condyloma removal
Rotation - Emergency Medicine

← Intubation
Femur Fracture →

← Lumbar Disk Herniation
Mechanical CPR →
Scholarly activity

BMI as an indicator of serum albumin and its role as a prognostic factor for Taiwanese patients with ESRD on hemodialysis

- Measured BMI of 131 ESRD patients receiving regular hemodialysis
- Cross-sectional analysis of correlation between BMI and serum albumin
- BMI in the overweight range (25-29.9 kg/m²) was positively correlated with serum albumin levels
- Patients in the overweight BMI group had the highest average serum albumin levels

Taiwanese Cultural Beliefs Prolonging Intubation

- Gathered data from 19 patients from RCW and EICU
- Standard evaluation period 7-10 days in the US
- Average 25 days on intubation in Taipei Hospital
- Longest intubation 282 days
- Cultural beliefs & values are a factor in intubation times
Extracurricular: Guanshan
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Extracurricular: Taiwan Root

- Who? Taiwan Root Medical Peace Corps--a private, non-sectarian, non-profit organization dedicated to improving quality of life through provision of medical services and health education: ALL VOLUNTEERS (doctors, dentists, kitchen staff, drivers, etc.)
- What? free medical care as well as educational health material to the local population
- When? every month
- Where? different mountain areas of Taiwan
- Why? to improve the local communities’ current conditions and offers resources for developing self-reliant healthcare systems.
- How?
  - http://www.taiwanroot.org/
  - apply EARLY
Can I go?

1. Requirements
1. Logistics
1. Expectations
Requirements

- Elective in the spring

- Applications (internal and external)
  - LOR
  - Letter of Intent
  - Resume

- For full details, please see TUCOM Public Health website &/or Dr. Lin
Logistics

- Time frame
  - 4 weeks
  - beginning of June to beginning of July

- Cost
  - flight: ~$1350-1600 (roundtrip SFO-TPE)
  - food: as low as ~$3-5 per meal
  - housing: free! (dormitory right next to hospital)
  - local transportation: ~$5 a day by MRT (going to the city)
Expectations

● Language
  o Mandarin Chinese and Taiwanese
    ▪ Not required but can be very helpful
  o Most preceptors speak English!

● Other
  o Community service event (rural)
  o Daily blog
  o Presentation to site’s local administrators (final presentation on last day of rotation)
    ▪ weekly reports
    ▪ final monthly report
Take aways

- Clinical knowledge
- Global Health Perspectives
- Cultural Competency
Activities

Night markets, Taipei Zoo, FOOD food FOOD!!!!
Questions?