Redefining healthcare on an international level.

Editor in Chief: Daisy Young, OMS II - Class of 2018
Associate Editor: Christopher Lin, OMS II - Class of 2018
FOREWORD

Each year, Touro University, California’s Global Health Program (GHP) sends their medical students to six countries to immerse themselves in international healthcare. In particular, Touro University has a partnership with Taiwan’s Taiwan International Healthcare Training Center (TIHTC) in New Taipei City. TIHTC has been serving the Xinzhuang District since 1972 and possesses 375 general beds and 162 specialty beds. There are currently 123 physicians on duty and a total of 967 staff members, with a constant flux of international physicians and students participating in the various training programs.

At this regional hospital, Touro students are given a unique opportunity to experience universal, national healthcare in specialties of their choosing. Many students also proactively found other avenues of service to complement their hospital studies, including overnight service projects to rural communities of Taiwan. Aside from academia, the students made sure to appreciate the diverse culture, delicacies, and scenery whenever possible. Suffice it to say, each student had a well-rounded experience during their month-long stay in Taiwan.

GHP-Taiwan Program Goals

❖ Gain Clinical Knowledge
  ➢ 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 Global Public Health Knowledge
  ➢ Recognize and understand the relationship between medicine and the environment in a global setting (medical ethics, law, health care system, etc.)

❖ Develop Cultural Competency
HIGHLIGHTS OF 2015

- Clinical Experience-

The first year medical students experienced many different aspects of medicine under the guidance of doctors, nurses, and other hospital staff while in Taiwan. Each student picked his or her own medical specialties to rotate in, one department each week for four weeks. The specialties covered were Cardiology, Dermatology, Emergency Medicine, General Surgery, GI, Hem-Onc, Nephrology, Neurology, Ob/Gyn, Ophthalmology, Orthopedic Surgery, PM&R, Pulmonology, Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), and Urology. Through these experiences, students gained a better understanding of healthcare in Taiwan, learned new clinical knowledge, and reinforced understanding of concepts by seeing them applied in practice. They were able to use their expertise in osteopathic philosophy and medicine as a platform to exchange medical knowledge. In addition, many students came up with original research ideas and were able to present their abstracts and/or case presentations at national conferences, namely OMED and BIOM in Orlando, Florida in October 2015. Outside the Taipei Hospital, students took the opportunity to shadow Traditional Chinese Medicine doctors at a local clinic, appreciating the similarities and differences between Western and Eastern medicine.

**June 2015 Group**

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**July 2015 Group**

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Student Doctors Vicki Hsieh and Audreyandra Imansjah during their Cardiology rotation.

Student Doctors Stanley Cheng, Wendy Zhou, and Christopher Lin during their General Surgery rotation.
- Healthcare System -

Touro University’s students experienced many major differences between the Taiwanese and U.S. healthcare system firsthand. In contrast to the U.S. healthcare system, Taiwan’s current healthcare system is known as the National Health Insurance (NHI) and serves as the single insurance plan for all citizens of Taiwan. Anyone, regardless of age, gender, or previous medical history, can be seen and treated by a physician. Despite the increased access to healthcare, this strains the government healthcare system and overloads hospitals with patients. Physicians and the hospital staff take a toll from the constant congestion and heavy workload every day. A physician could see as many as 50-60 patients in a single afternoon in the outpatient department, compared to the 30-40 patients per day in a U.S. clinic. Through an inside look in a national training hospital, students were able to discern the intricacies between the government-sponsored and private-sponsored healthcare systems of Taiwan and United States, respectively.

- Volunteering -

The students had a number of opportunities to volunteer in rural communities in Taiwan as part of the Taiwan Roots Program and a separate but similar program associated with the Tzu Chi Hospital in Guanshan County. Taiwan Root is a non-profit organization created in Taiwan designed to serve Taiwanese people living in remote and impoverished areas, where doctors, dentists, and volunteers set up mobile clinics and provide free medical care to the community. Some of the locations students went to volunteer include the Jianshi Mountains in Hsinchu County and in Miaoli County. The locals had very infrequent access to medical care and were living their daily lives without knowing how to properly care for their medical problems. At each site, students served the people through medicine, pharmacy, clothing giveaways, and haircut services. In Miaoli, the students set up an OMM “clinic” where they offered treatment to both the locals and volunteers, most of whom have never seen or heard about OMM. Both the healthcare staff and locals were curious to learn more about the osteopathic profession and encouraged Touro students to come back more frequently. The students collectively agree that serving these communities and seeing how appreciative the people were in receiving their help were rewarding experiences. Through these opportunities, the students were reminded of the reasons for pursuing this challenging career in medicine and were inspired to continue expanding their knowledge in global health.

To read more about the individual students’ experiences, please use the following link: https://globalhealthtaiwan.wordpress.com/author/globalhealthtaiwan/
From left to right: Student Doctors Wendy Zhou, Audreyandra Imansjah, Stanley Cheng, & Vicki Hsieh pose after a long day of volunteering.

From left to right: Student Doctors Zhou, Cheng, Imansjah, & Hsieh smile after interacting with a pediatric local.

From left to right: Student Doctors Daisy Young and Patrick Hsu perform OMM on Taiwanese locals.

From left to right: Student Doctors Eureka Wu, Patrick Hsu and Daisy Young demonstrate OMM at their OMM “clinic.”

Student Doctor Danny Truong diagnoses & treats lumbosacral dysfunction.

From left to right: Student Doctors Wendy Zhou, Audreyandra Imansjah, Stanley Cheng, & Vicki Hsieh pose after a long day of volunteering.
11 posters related to the 2015 Global Health Program summer internship in Taiwan were presented at the OMED and BIOM 17th Annual International Seminar on October 17 and 18, 2015 in Orlando, Florida.

- Poster presentations -

**Characteristics of Comorbidities in Taiwanese Patients who are Infected with Multi-Drug Resistant Tuberculosis**
Primary Authors: Stanley H Cheng, OMS II; Lin Chen Chien; Athena Lin, PhD Touro University COM

**Using Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine to serve aboriginal populations in rural Taiwan with the Taiwan Root Medical Peace Corps**
Primary Author: Patrick Hsu, OMS II; Secondary Authors: Danny Truong, OMS II; Eureka Wu, OMS II; Daisy Young, OMS II.

**Low Colorectal Screening Rate Contributes to the Symptomatic Late Stage Colorectal Cancer Incidence in Patients Received in Taipei Hospital**
Primary Authors: Vicki Hsieh, OMS II; Chien Ming Chen; Wendy Zhou; Athena Lin, PhD Touro University COM

**A case study on an unusual presentation of intracardiac thrombus in a patient with metastatic breast cancer at TIHTC Taipei Hospital**
Primary Authors: Audreyandra Imansjah, OMS II; Vicki Hsieh, OMS II; Wei Yuan Chen, M.D. Taipei Hospital TIHTC; Athena Lin, PhD Touro University COM

**A comparison between Fried Frailty Score and Serum Albumin Levels in Taiwanese Patients with ESRD on Hemodialysis**
Primary Author: Christopher Lin, OMS II; Secondary Authors: Audreyandra Imansjah, OMS II Athena Lin, PhD, Yin-Cheng Chen, MD, Xinzhuang District, New Taipei City, Taiwan

**Increased risk of hepatotoxicity and hyperuricemia in elderly Taiwanese multi drug resistant tuberculosis patients taking pyrazinamide**
Primary Authors: Danny Truong, OMS II ; Secondary Authors: Gregory Arthur Peng, OMS II, Athena Lin, PhD Touro University COM

**Comparison and Contrast of Diagnosis Methods between OMM and TCM, the counterpart of OMM in the Eastern World**
Primary Author: Eureka Wu, OMS II; Secondary Author: Ming-Chu Chen, CME, Taipei Hospital, Department of Health, Taiwan, Athena Lin, PhD, Touro University COM
Clinical and Surgical Implications of EGFR Mutations in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer
Primary Authors: Mira Yoon, OMS II, MPH; Secondary Authors: Chien-Ming Chen, MD, Global Health Program, Taipei Hospital, Taipei, New Taipei City, Taiwan

Age, Cavitation and Platelet Count as Potential Markers of Patient Vitality in Non-Drug Resistant Tuberculosis at the Taipei Hospital in Taiwan
Primary Co-Authors: Daisy Young, OMS II; Patrick Hsu, OMS II; Secondary Authors: Athena Lin, PhD, Taiwan International Healthcare Training Center, Pulmonology Department, Chief of Department Dr. Lin Chen Chien Touro University California, Global Health Program, Taiwan Director

Colorectal Cancer Prognosis and Post-Surgical Complications of CRC Patients in Taipei Hospital Correlated to Genetic Background of KRAS and EGFR
Primary Co-Authors: Wendy Zhou, OMS II and Vicki Hsieh, OMS II; Secondary Authors: Chien Ming Chen; Athena Lin, PhD Touro University COM

- Poster Award -

Student Doctor Michael Lee, OMS II was awarded 1st Place in the Research Category.

Patients with Six Cannulation Sites for Hemodialysis Correlated with Decreased Occurrence of AV Shunt Thrombosis in Taipei Hospital.
Authors: Michael Lee, Athena Lin, Yin-Cheng Chen.
VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE

With each year, Touro University’s Global Health Program in Taiwan becomes increasingly sought after. As such, it is with high hopes that this program continues to foster strong relations with TIHTC and perhaps other hospitals in Taiwan. Touro University has been highly represented at national conferences for research conducted in Taiwan, and have received awards consecutively in the past several years. GHP-Taiwan is confident that this will continue to be a trend in the years to come. Lastly, GHP-Taiwan highly encourages the dynamic exchange of medical knowledge, especially in regards to osteopathic manipulative medicine. Without such collaboration, medicine would cease to evolve.

All of this could not have been possible without the overwhelming support of Dr. Athena Lin and TIHTC, so on behalf of GHP-Taiwan’s participants, we thank you for this unforgettable experience! Cheers to the continuing success of GHP-Taiwan!