

# Starting from Scratch

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AACOM April 18, 2009

Bethesda, Maryland

# Why Global Health?

“The quest to improve global health represents a challenge of monumental proportions: the problems seem so enormous, the obstacles so great, and success so elusive.

On the other hand it is difficult to imagine a pursuit more closely aligned with the professional values and visceral instincts of most physicians.

Many young doctors enter medicine with a passionate interest in global health; our challenge is to nurture this commitment and encourage its expression.”

David Shaywitz, MD, PhD, Harvard Medical School

# How should we train medical students in Global Health?

## 4 Main Themes

1. Define Global Health
2. Specify GH Competencies
3. Operationalize international placements
4. Effect inter-institutional cooperation



# Definition

- **'Global Health'** relates to health issues and concerns that transcend national borders, class, race, ethnicity and culture. The term stresses the commonality of health issues and which require a collective (partnership-based) action.

-Global Health Education Consortium  
<http://globalhealthedu.org>

# Global Health Competencies



- Local
  - History
  - Politics
  - Health care system
- General
  - Community
  - Individual

# International Placements

- Structured Experience
- Cooperation and mutual assistance
- Explicit objectives
- Evaluations
- Sensitivity and awareness of cultural issues



# Infrastructure



- Security
- Transportation
- Awareness of local healthcare facilities and personnel
- Finances
- Food
- Housing

# Pre-Trip



- Specific objectives
- Student signs affidavit
- Multiple pre-trip preparatory meetings
- Global Health Club topics

# During the Trip

- Clinical evaluation of mentors
- Reflection essays
- Logs of patients seen



# Post-Trip



- Adequate debriefing for re-entry
- Explore work with local underserved groups
- Evaluation

# International Collaboration

- Transparency, trust and professionalism
- Mapping of administrative governance, roles, and responsibilities
- Evaluations
- Written documents of agreement



# Faculty Development



- COM
- International faculty
- Global Health  
Education  
Consortium  
Resources
- Meeting the needs  
of the community

# Strategic Partnering

- Networking
- Funding
- Creativity



# Resources

- Global Health Council

<http://www.globalhealth.org>

- GHEC

Global Health Education Consortium

[www.globalhealtheducation.org](http://www.globalhealtheducation.org)