2-1-2020

Turning Passion into Purpose: A Journey to Medicine Through Global Health

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Turning passion into Purpose: A Journey to Medicine Through Global Health

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This research was supported (in whole or in part) by HCA and/or an HCA affiliated entity. The views expressed in this publication represent those of the author(s) do not necessarily represent the official views of HCA or any of its affiliated entities.
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Haiti, January 12th, 2010

The Guardian, January, 16, 2015
Where it all Began...
“Seeing the World is a prerequisite to understanding one’s place in it”

Josh Gates
Medicine & Global Health
What is Global Health?

an area for study, research, and practice that places a priority on improving health and achieving equity in health for all people worldwide.

Other important Terms:

- **Global health Equity**
  (Medical staff, dignified space, system, resources)

- **Sustainability**

- **Social Determinants of Health**
Common Pitfalls

- Top-down approach (foreign aid)
- No community Involvement
- Lack of knowledge of political and historical forces
- Ignoring the barriers of care
- "Voluntourism"
- Ethical dilemmas in providing care
Getting Involved

Why?
- Global Citizen
- Personal Attachment
- Academics (MPH, affiliation, research)
- Disaster relief
- Religious (mission trips)

How?
- Fundraising/Donation
- Medical trip
- Telemedicine
- Semi permanent/ permanent position (Medecins Sans Frontiere, Red Cross, etc)

When?
- Pre Medical
- In Medical school
- During Residency
- Post Training
Global Health and Graduate Medical Education: A Systematic Review of the Literature

Corey B. Bills, MD, MPH and James Ahn, MD
Things to consider before Traveling

- Financial contribution
- Choosing an Organization (non for profit, grassroot, religious)
- Reflecting on the purpose of the
- Research on country (history, culture, travel advisory)
- Goals of trip (setting concrete goal)
- Educational module prior to travel (Ethics, Culture, Infectious disease)
Pre Departure Planning

- Travel clinic (vaccination, prophylaxis meds)
- Visa
- Professional and health and travel insurance
- Housing
- Safety during trip (security, local/hosting partner organizations, embassy, etc)
During the trip

- Cultural beliefs surrounding medicine
- Understand the healthcare system
- Understanding your role within an already established system
- Understanding the staff you work with (midwives, nurses, medical personnel, physicians)
- Group dynamics and debriefing sessions
After the trip, What’s next?

- Future involvement
- Reflecting on experience and sharing
- Advocacy
- Creating lasting partnerships (educational exchange program)
Return to Haiti:

- Established in 2013
- Team Zaryen, Amputee Soccer
- Workspace in PAP, work opportunity for individuals with disabilities

- 2016 Rehab Clinic in Gonaives
- All Haitian Therapist team care for Musculoskeletal neurological and developmental disorders.
- Medical Services in remote villages.
January 2019 Mission Trip

- Multidisciplinary team (PT, OT, MD, Nurse)
- Artibonite Rehab Clinic
- La Coupe Medical Clinic
- Adaptive sports
- Hypertension & Stroke prevention program
- Pediatric Malnutrition (Medika Mamba)
- Prosthetic and Orthotic specialist
Adaptive Sports

- Team Zaryen
- 2018 Amputee Football World Cup in Mexico (top ten finish)
- Provide micro loans (self-sustainability)
- Wheelchair basketball team
Jolissaint’s Story
From Amputee to Artist
Future Plans

- Building a multidisciplinary impact center (medical clinic, physical therapy,)
- Developing our Pediatrics and Preventative health programs
- Health education for general public
- Financial assistance to encourage self sustainability
- Employment and educational opportunities
- Supporting Adaptive Sports (2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games)
Reflecting on my Global Health experience
“If you can’t figure out your PURPOSE
Figure out your PASSION
For your PASSION will lead you right into your PURPOSE”
T.D. Jakes
Resources


- https://www.theguardian.com/katine/2009/apr/01/uganda-healthcare-system-explained