Author(s): Julie Maslowsky, Kathleen Bush, Christopher Glen, Anna Mitsak, Carrie Rheingans, Sujal Parikh, Frank Anderson, 2010.

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Transforming student global health initiatives: Developing an interdisciplinary student handbook on global engagement

Julie Maslowsky, Kathleen Bush, Christopher Glen, Anna Mitsak, Carrie Rheingans, Sujal Parikh, Frank Anderson

September 20, 2010

Consortium of Universities for Global Health
Is my project sustainable?
Is my project sustainable?

How do I work effectively with local partners?
- Is my project sustainable?
- How do I work effectively with local partners?
- What is the significance of my project?
Is my project sustainable?
How do I work effectively with local partners?
What is the significance of my project?
Is my project culturally appropriate?
Is my project sustainable?
How do I work effectively with local partners?
What is the significance of my project?
Is my project culturally appropriate?
How should I act when I am working abroad?
- Is my project sustainable?
- How do I work effectively with local partners?
- What is the significance of my project?
- Is my project culturally appropriate?
- How should I act when I am working abroad?
- How and to whom do I disseminate my results?
Background

- Global health professionals continue to pursue a unifying definition of global health research and the standards it should follow (Stephen & Daibes, 2009)

- Some introductory guidelines for students to follow when conducting research and service abroad (Anderson & Wansom, 2009; Pinto & Upshur, 2009)

- No known guide on standards for effective global engagement specifically for students
Objectives

- To create a *Handbook of Standards for Global Engagement* for use by students before, during, and after their participation in international research and service activities.
- To provide necessary information on ethics, project design, professionalism, and logistical concerns to enable students to engage in meaningful work abroad.
Process: Developing the Standards

- Multidisciplinary student task force assembled by University of Michigan Center for Global Health (CGH)
- CGH provided faculty, staff, and logistical support for students to create a *Handbook of Standards for Global Engagement*
Process: Developing the Standards

- Task force met over eight months to draft a document for fellow students preparing to work abroad
- ~40 students participated in developing the *Handbook*

Sources:
- Published ethical guidelines and consensus statements (e.g. Pinto & Upshur, 2009, ngocodeofconduct.org)
- Student and faculty experience
Challenges

- Large, decentralized university
- Audience: students of many disciplines, varying levels of previous experience
- Variety of international destinations
- Both research and service projects
Results

- *Handbook* addresses core competencies:
  - Knowledge, attitudes, and practices across disciplines
  - Encourages reflection
  - Enables focused discussion with peers, advisors, and collaborators locally and abroad

- Designed to be used before (preparation), during (implementation), and after (reflection, dissemination) working abroad
Contents

- Ethics of Research Abroad
  - Sustainability, cultural competency, importance of local partners
- Project Development with International Partners
  - “How to”: planning, design, implementation, dissemination
- Guidelines for Professional Behavior Abroad
  - Daily behavior: competence/limitations, collaboration, professionalism
Contents

- Global Citizenship and Advocacy
  - Advocacy in: academia, governmental and non-governmental organizations, public sphere
- Logistics of Research and Service Abroad
  - Health, safety, finances
What students are saying

“The fact that this document was prepared by students for students is one of its greatest strengths. Challenges and suggestions are laid out in a clear manner, keeping in mind the limitations of student work and resources. This is a great starting point and reference for students to consult throughout their research and learning endeavors.”

Hasan Siddiqi, Medical Student
Next Steps

- CGH offers the *Handbook* as a resource to its student affiliates and the public (website)
- Student task force to expand the *Handbook*:
  - Training modules
  - Pre-departure course on global health ethics
- Working with the University to incorporate the *Handbook* into its campus-wide global portal
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- Aim: develop a tool that others can adapt, build on, and use

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Conclusion

- Support from the Center for Global Health and input from students from diverse disciplines were integral to the creation of the Handbook.
- Challenges and benefits of interdisciplinary approach.
- Hope the Handbook becomes part of standard preparation for university-sponsored activities abroad.
Thank you!

http://globalhealth.umich.edu/staffandassociatespubs.html
References