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# Global health field work & student experiences

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# Short-term experiences

- o Opportunities in response to interest
- o 2-4week trips
- o Many “providers” and sometimes hard to distinguish the good from the bad
- o Can be falsely viewed as little harm
- o Usually focused on the education and training of the participant including: exposure to diseases uncommon in HIC settings, and increased clinical/research acumen

# What are the issues?

- o 10 Fixes for Global Health Consulting Malpractice
- o Suboptimal use of time and resources
- o Negatively impact training of local students
- o Harm the host community/individuals
- o Create dependencies
- o Perpetuate global health inequities



Change  
focus

From trainees experience to effectively  
addressing the agenda of host communities



# Guidelines for STEGHs

Principles to guide ethical development of educational STEGHs:

- skills building in cross-cultural effectiveness and cultural humility
- bidirectional participatory relationships
- local capacity building
- long-term sustainability



Melby et al. *Beyond Medical “Missions” to impact-driven short-term experience in global health (STEGHs): Ethical Principles to Optimize Community Benefit and Learner Experience*



# Learner characteristics

- o Recognition that the underlying principle of any placement is that participation is a privilege, not a right
- o Humility
- o Ability to recognize and value local partners' knowledge and advice over preconceptions
- o Willing to be an engaged observer
- o Excellent communicator
- o Not for the CV
- o Recognition of student status -- learning opportunities to match abilities and degree of independence at home (or less due to language, standards of care, treatment algorithms)



# Pre-departure training

- Formal program by GHP for clinical and research students


McGill myCourses Faculty of Medicine: Pre-departure Training

Content Groups Assignments Classlist Quizzes Surveys Grades Awards

Table of Contents > Module 1: Safety Abroad > Learning Content-Module 1

## Learning Content-Module 1

Pre-departure Training for Health Professional Students:  
Module 1: Safety Abroad



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# Pre-departure training

## Topics

- o Consular Services and Visas
- o Travel Advisories
- o Insurance and Vaccinations
- o Your roles
- o Packing list
- o Personal safety
- o Medical safety tips
- o Culture Shock
- o Ethical scenarios
- o Language!

(Need to get site-specific information from supervisors and previous students)



“I was living in a spare room in my supervisor’s house. She cautioned me repeatedly not to go out after dark, but it felt safe enough to me. It as Friday night and there was nothing to do so I called a taxi and went to check out the bars in my guidebook. I had a great time and returned home safely, but the next day my supervisor was angry and threatened to cancel the remainder of my elective. I, on the other hand, thought things went so well that I wanted to go out again in the next few days.”



**What is the issue here?**

“A medical student was given funding for a research study on surgical preparedness for a number of procedures at a hospital in South Africa. She was assisting with the study under the supervision of a local doctor and a supervisor at McGill. One day the doctor she’d been working with said that she could scrub in on a procedure and assist with the surgery. The student had been through her surgical rotation as a third year, but hadn’t done a procedure like this one. She would welcome the opportunity, but was unsure what to do.”



**What is the issue here?**



Protests in Haiti with students there and in route. Travel advisory increased and embassy closed.



What is the issue here?

An undergraduate student is interested in global health and medical school and wants to go overseas. He looks up a variety of groups and decides on one that takes a group of college students to a hospital in Central America once they pay a fee. Once there the students will take vital signs, assess lung sounds and take patient histories. The students are not required to be fluent in Spanish. The students come to the GHP office asking for support.



**What is the issue here?**





# Opportunities

# Global Health Scholars

Opportunities for McGill undergraduates to gain experience on global health research projects:

- Scholars receive \$2,500-5,000 and are matched with faculty supervisor
- Opens early January for summer 2020







## Pulitzer Center Summer Reporting Fellowship



Apply for an **international journalism travel grant** available to **McGill Global Health Programs** students.

Advance your global education by becoming a student journalist with the **Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting**, a leading journalism organization with deep experience covering global issues. Investigate and illuminate the stories that are **overlooked and underserved**.

Applications due **February 18, 2018**

Learn more about how to apply at [bit.ly/studentfellowships](http://bit.ly/studentfellowships)

View our student fellow reporting from 2017 at [bit.ly/studentfellows2017](http://bit.ly/studentfellows2017)

For more information, email **Kristin Hendricks**  
[kristin.hendricks@mcgill.ca](mailto:kristin.hendricks@mcgill.ca)

# Global Health from...here

- o Global health = decreasing inequities → lots of work to be done here in Canada
- o Working with resource constrained settings in North America can
  - o sharpen clinical and language skills
  - o facilitate population health perspectives
  - o develop a stronger sense of social inequities and injustices
  - o advocacy important (i.e. Canada's foreign budget)

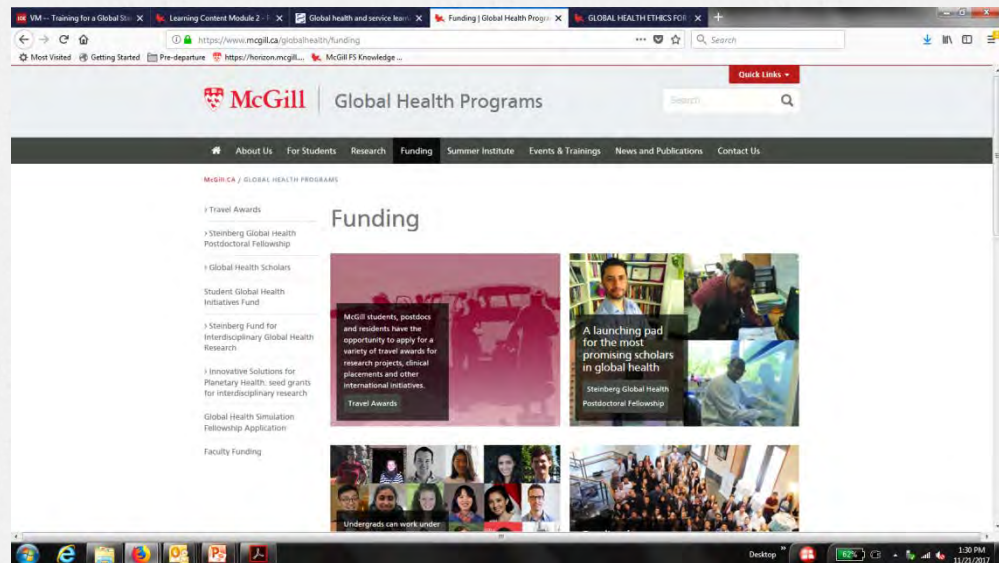


GLOBAL + LOCAL = GLOCAL



# Funding

- o Global Health Programs
- o Research funding
- o Paid internships





# Activity

- o Get into groups of 6-8 students. One person with a computer ideally.
- o I'll give you one website to explore and conduct a cursory evaluation of the program.
- o Focus on the principles from the article:
  - o skills building in cross-cultural effectiveness and cultural humility
  - o bidirectional participatory relationships
  - o local capacity building
  - o long-term sustainability
- o Report back to group
  - o Goals of the program?
  - o Positives and Negatives of program
  - o Overall impression



**RADI-AID**

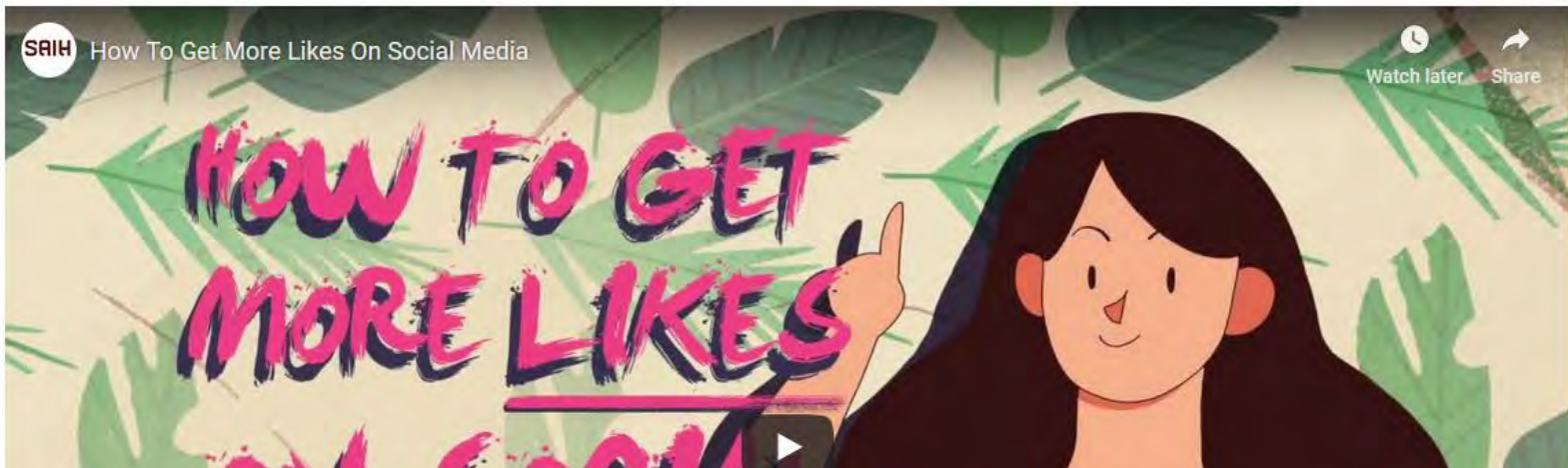
BARBIE *savior*

Follow



# How To Communicate The World

A SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDE FOR VOLUNTEERS AND TRAVELERS





- o **Photo guidelines**
- o Sometimes the most compelling way to tell a story is through photography. We encourage submissions of all types of photography from your global health related experiences be it here at home, in the nation, or abroad. To stay true to what you saw and captured at the time, we ask that you avoid excessive editing. Submissions must be an original work taken by the individual submitting the photo.
- o Perspectives supports ethical photography, meaning the welfare of the subject(s) in question (people, animals, environments, etc) take precedence over their photography. Do not harm, bribe, or manipulate the subject or its environments for the sake of creating an image.
- o Photographers' decisions about the depiction of their subjects can completely alter viewers' perceptions. An ethically shared photograph is one that accurately portrays a situation without stigmatizing the subjects. The photograph is taken with the subjects' consent, and shared in a way that the subjects approve.
- o Written informed consent is mandatory in the following situations:
- o A subject's face is visible.
- o A person's (or a group of people's) medical or personal information is revealed in the photo (e.g. HIV status).





# After you return

- GH experiences aren't for everyone...and that's ok!
  - Physically and mentally challenging
  - Ethically complex
  - Financially challenging
- Take time to reflect
  - Academic and personal growth



# Being thoughtful

- Classes, workshops, events, seminars, local volunteering in small ways → building skills
- Government organizations like IDRIC summer program, Grand Challenges Canada summer program, Health Canada student program
- International programs → do the legwork and research, ask questions, evaluate, there are definitely good options, but you need to look
- Money raisers as global health → “Doing Good Better” book



# Summary thought

- o Here's what I tell my students: The very traits that have served you well to date are those that, in many cases, you will now need to put aside.
- o You have succeeded in your academic careers often because you are assertive, active learners who are not afraid to ask questions or to push yourselves hard and always deliver an outstanding final product. And you have been rewarded for this behavior over and over through teacher praise, stellar grades, and impressive awards.
- o Now, the challenge is try to *unlearn* all the socialization that to this point has brought you academic accolades. You must resist the temptation to share every great thought or idea you have. You must switch into listener mode.
- o Lisa Adams, Dartmouth University *How NOT to save the world: Why U.S. students who go to poor countries to 'do good' often do the opposite*



Questions?