The UCLA Global Health Education Programs have established a relationship with Siriraj Hospital at Mahidol University in Bangkok, Thailand. Siriraj Hospital was established in 1888 as Thailand’s first medical school and public hospital. It is now a 2,000 bed tertiary medical center and teaching hospital, providing exemplary medical services with interdisciplinary, comprehensive and compassionate care.

In the spring of 2015, the UCLA Global Health Education Programs will offer a clinical elective experience at Siriraj Hospital. This elective includes one week on the adult infectious disease service, where students will see inpatients with dengue fever, leptospirosis, TB, and opportunistic infections resulting from advanced HIV/AIDS. Students will also spend time in the adult outpatient HIV and general ID clinics, and will participate in microbiology rounds, lectures, and journal clubs. The second week is spent on the pediatric service where students will have a combined experience on the general inpatient ward, and in a variety of outpatient subspecialty clinics. Opportunities include a busy infectious diseases clinic with a high volume of TB and HIV patients, a hematology clinic with a focus on the management of children with thalassemias, and a general pediatrics ambulatory experience. The final week of the rotation consists of exposure to traditional Thai medicine at Siriraj Hospital, and day trips to rural and community based clinics and hospitals. During these day trips, students may have the opportunity to join healthcare providers on home health visits in Thai villages.

While in Bangkok, students are supervised by Thai attending physicians, and will work alongside Thai medical students and residents from Siriraj Hospital. While patients may not be able to communicate in English, many Thai physicians and medical students at Siriraj feel comfortable speaking in both Thai and English. Ward rounds and select teaching conferences will be conducted in English.

The rotation has been developed with formal goals and objectives. We are seeking students with an interest in caring for underserved populations, and those with enthusiasm for learning more about global health, infectious diseases and health care delivery in resource poor settings. Students will be expected to demonstrate the highest level of maturity, professionalism and cultural sensitivity.

Students will receive $2,000 of support for the Thailand clinical rotation. These funds are awarded to contribute to the costs of roundtrip airfare and in-country accommodation and food. Students will need to cover the remaining expenses from other funds, as the cost of this rotation will exceed the amount provided by the Center for World Health.

Interviews for the elective will take place on November 1, 2014, with a few additional time slots the week prior to that. Students selected for this rotation are required to participate in a full day pre-departure training program in Los Angeles on Saturday, February 7, 2015. Upon return home from Thailand, students will be expected to provide feedback through written evaluation forms, and participate in a lunchtime feedback session on Thursday, June 4, 2015.

Rotation dates for the Thailand elective have been confirmed. **Students applying to this elective must be able to be in Thailand from March 23, 2015 through April 10, 2015.** Please note that a March 24 start date will require a departure on Saturday, March 21, 2015 at the latest.

Questions regarding this rotation should be directed to Dr. Traci Wells at twells@mednet.ucla.edu. Thank you for your interest in this clinical opportunity in Thailand!