Global Health Education Programs
Senior Clinical Elective in Iquitos, Peru
Spring 2015

The UCLA Center for World Health has established strong relationships with the Regional Hospital of Loreto in Iquitos, in the Amazon region of northern Peru. Iquitos is the largest city in the Peruvian rainforest, and is considered the densest city in the world that cannot be reached by road. The government’s Regional Hospital serves over a million residents from the city and its surrounding rural communities in the Amazon basin. Some patients seen there have traveled for over two weeks by boat to reach medical attention.

We are pleased to offer a clinical rotation in primary care medicine in Iquitos for two medical students in the spring of 2015. This global health elective will provide broad exposure to an extremely underserved population, with opportunities to see patients at both the Regional Hospital of Loreto, and at the high volume Belen Clinic on the Amazon (both settings pictured to the left).

The inpatient opportunities will include a general pediatrics ward service and an adult infectious diseases ward service. A one-week outpatient experience will be based at the Belen Clinic, with likely opportunities to see patients in rural health care centers “up river,” traveling with a primary care physician and a public health nurse. Some of the most frequently seen diagnoses include pneumonia, diarrhea and dehydration, tuberculosis, dengue fever, malaria, HIV/AIDS, trauma, seizures, meningitis, snake bites, burns and leptospirosis.

While in Iquitos, students are supervised by attending physicians in pediatrics, primary care medicine and adult infectious diseases. At the Regional Hospital, students will work alongside the equivalent of transitional residents, along with medical students from the Universidad Nacional de la Amazona Peruana. Students must have strong conversational Spanish skills in order to participate in this elective.

The rotation in Iquitos 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 global health, tropical medicine and health care delivery in resource poor settings. Students will be expected to demonstrate the highest level of maturity, professionalism and cultural sensitivity.

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 Peru, students will be expected to provide feedback through written evaluation forms, and to participate in a lunchtime feedback session on Thursday, June 4, 2015.

Students will receive $1,500 in support for the Iquitos 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.

Rotation dates for Iquitos have been confirmed. Students applying to this elective must be able to commit to this elective from March 30, 2015 through April 17, 2015. Note that a March 30 start date will require departure by March 28, 2015 at the latest.

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