Global Health Education Programs
Senior Clinical Elective in Pediatrics in Maputo, Mozambique
Spring 2018

The UCLA Center for World Health and the Mattel Children’s Hospital at UCLA have established strong relationships with the Eduardo Mondlane University (UEM) School of Medicine, and with the faculty leadership at the Central Hospital of Maputo, the primary medical school and teaching hospital in the country, respectively. Mozambique, a former Portuguese colony, has over 10 million children, and some of the highest neonatal and childhood mortality rates in sub-Saharan Africa. It is estimated that 70% of the population falls below the poverty level. There is a huge shortage of physicians, with fewer than 70 Mozambican pediatricians, few pediatric subspecialists, and two pediatric surgeons serving the entire country.

We are pleased to offer a clinical rotation in Pediatrics in Mozambique in the spring of 2018. This global health elective provides broad exposure in the delivery of care to an extremely underserved pediatric population at this referral center. The major emphasis of this rotation will be in the inpatient setting at the 1500 bed Central Hospital, with additional opportunities to work in ambulatory settings. Students may rotate on the pediatric infectious diseases ward, the breastfeeding infant ward, the malnutrition ward, and on the general pediatrics service, gaining broad exposure to medical problems including HIV-AIDS, tuberculosis, diarrhea and dehydration, malnutrition, and malaria. In addition, students will have opportunities to learn about the medical education and the health care delivery system in Mozambique.

While in Mozambique, students will be supervised by a UCLA faculty member living in Maputo, Dr. Chris Buck, and by UEM pediatric faculty at Central Hospital of Maputo. Students will also have opportunities to work with pediatric residents and medical students from UEM. The rotation in Mozambique 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, HIV, infectious diseases, and health service delivery in resource poor settings. Students will be expected to demonstrate the highest level of maturity, professionalism, and cultural sensitivity. While proficiency in Portuguese is ideal, it is not required for this rotation; however, students must have at least conversational Spanish skills in order to participate in this elective.

Interviews for the elective will take place on October 7, 2017, with a few additional time slots during the following week. Students selected for this rotation are required to participate in a full day pre-departure training program in Los Angeles on Saturday, January 20, 2018. Upon return home from Mozambique, students will be expected to provide feedback through written evaluation forms, and to participate in a mandatory lunchtime feedback session on Thursday, May 31, 2018.

Students will receive $2,500 of support for the Mozambique clinical rotation upon return from Mozambique. These funds are awarded to offset 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.

Rotation dates for this elective have been confirmed. Students applying for this elective must be able to commit to this elective from March 26, 2017 through April 13, 2017. Note that a March 26 start date will require departure from the U.S. by March 24, 2018, 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 Mozambique!