The UCLA Center for World Health has established a strong 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 2018, the UCLA Center for World Health is offering 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 community-based clinics.

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 upon return from Thailand. These funds will 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.

Interviews for the elective will take place on Saturday, 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 Thailand, students will be expected to provide feedback through written evaluation forms, and participate in a mandatory lunchtime feedback session on Thursday, May 31, 2018.

Rotation dates for the Thailand elective have been confirmed. Students applying for this three-week elective must be able to be in Thailand from March 26, 2018 through April 20, 2018. There will be no rotations during the third week, due to the national Songkran holiday, which is why the timeline for this elective spans four weeks instead of three. Please note that a March 26 start date will require a departure on 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 Thailand!