The UCLA Center for World Health is pleased to offer a new medical student clinical elective at Tintswalo Hospital in Acornhoek, Limpopo Province, close to Kruger National Park in South Africa. Tintswalo is a general district hospital that serves a predominantly rural and low-income catchment area of approximately 300,000 people. They currently have 7 full-time physicians, 3 of whom are Family Medicine-trained, and 4 who are general practitioners. The hospital has 423 adult and pediatric beds and has busy inpatient and outpatient services. There is also a network of surrounding primary health centers and visiting students will have opportunities to work in these sites as well as Tintswalo Hospital.

There is a high burden of HIV and associated comorbidities including tuberculosis, diarrheal and respiratory illness, and malnutrition in the patient population, but they also see a significant amount of non-communicable disease and have a very busy psychiatric service. They also have a very busy Labor and Delivery service with approximately 500 deliveries per month.

While rotating at Tintswalo, students will be supervised by Dr. Belinda McIntosh, a South African Family Medicine physician with extensive experience mentoring and teaching South African and visiting foreign learners. Professional colleagues all speak English, as do many of the patients, but Changana and other South African dialects are frequently used by patients.

Very high quality housing will be provided at the Wits Rural site (https://www.wits.ac.za/campus-life/arts-and-culture/wits-rural-facility/accommodation/). Students will need to rent a car for transport to and from the hospital for this rotation. Local transport and taxis are not a feasible option. Acornhoek and nearby Hoedspruit are ideal locations for safari in Kruger National Park and nearby private game reserves. Blyde River Canyon, which is nearby, offers excellent hiking and outdoors activities.

The rotation at Tintswalo 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.

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, 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 Tintswalo clinical rotation upon return from South Africa. 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 April 2, 2018 through April 20, 2018. Note that an April 2 start date will require departure from the U.S. by March 31, 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 Tintswalo, South Africa!