WHO Research Scholars: Developing Global Health Educators and Leaders

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PATHWAYS OF DISTINCTION: OUR FUTURE MEDICAL SCHOOL FACULTY

- Clinician/Educator
- Clinician/Researcher
- Physician/Scientist
- WHO Research Scholars
PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE SHORTAGES

- **Demand**
  - Population Growth
  - Aging of population
  - Expectations and wealth leads to increase of health care resources

- **Supply**
  - One third (250,000) of active physicians over age 55 to retire by 2020
  - Newest generation of physicians – work/life balance

Salsberg E., Grover A. Academic Medicine 81:782, 2006
AAMC 2006 STATEMENT ON THE PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE

Recommendations

- Enrollment increase by 30% from 2002 levels
- Expand graduate medical education positions
- Study maldistribution of physicians
- Expand National Health Services Corps and student indebtedness
- Evaluate relationship between medical preparation and the quality of care
WHO Internship

- Introduction
- Selection Criteria
- During the Internship
- Upon Return
Des Moines University (DMU) has created an innovative program to offer World Health Organization (WHO) research internships as a third-year rotation option. Elements of the design, selection process and outcomes will be shared. The goal is to create physicians who are competent in evidence-based clinical research, aware of global health issues and motivated to become educators of the future. Participants will be asked to share models and ideas from their schools.
WHO regional offices

- AFRO – Congo
- AMRO/PAHO – United States
- EMRO – Egypt
- EURO – Denmark
- SEARO – India
- WPRO – the Philippines
Applicants must be enrolled in a degree program in a graduate school (second university degree or higher) both at the time of application and during the internship.

Applicants pursuing their studies in countries where higher education is not divided into undergraduate and graduate stages must have completed at least three years of full-time studies at a university or equivalent institution towards the completion of a degree.

A minimum of 20 years of age.

Possess a first degree in a public health, medical or social field related to the technical work of WHO.

Fluent in the working language of the office of assignment.
WHO–Timeline

- **Summer (May to October)**
  To be considered for a Summer internship, applications are accepted between December 1 – January 31 each year.

- **Winter (November to April)**
  To be considered for a Winter internship, applications are accepted between August 1 – September 30 each year.
DMU Summer Internship
DMU–Selection Criteria:

- academic standing in the top 50% of class
- evidence of scholarly activities
- faculty recommendations
- student narrative
DMU–Selection Criteria

- completion of coursework or experience in:
  - research methods and ethics
  - epidemiology
  - biostatistics.
During the internship

- Students will work under the supervision of WHO researchers to engage in activities such as conducting systematic reviews or creating evidence-based educational materials for worldwide distribution.
Upon return

- Students present their findings at a campus research symposium
- Are encouraged to submit their findings to a peer-reviewed journal
- Pre/post survey data on the internship experience is also collected
Conclusion:

- The goal is to create physicians who are competent in evidence-based clinical research, who have an awareness of global health issues, and who are motivated to become educators to share their knowledge.
Websites

- interns@who.int
- www.dmu.edu