

Grant Recipient Names: Michelle Butina and Kim Campbell
Grant Period: August 2012-June 2013
Report Date: April 23, 2014

Exploration of MLS Special Practicum Rotation in Haiti

Specific Aims of the Project

1. The University of Kentucky Medical Laboratory Science Program will investigate clinical opportunities for students in Haiti.
2. Dr. Butina will visit Haiti as a member of the Randolph World Ministries medical mission team in order to explore and investigate future opportunities for UK MLS students in Haiti.
3. Dr. Butina will evaluate all safety risks and logistical planning associated with the Randolph World Ministries medical mission trip and assess the findings.

Progress on Project Objectives

Objective 1: Dr. Butina will participate in the summer 2012 Randolph World Ministries medical mission trip.
PROGRESS: COMPLETED

Objective 2: Dr. Butina will gain experience in international travel, to a third-world country, and will familiarize herself with Haiti and its culture.
PROGRESS: COMPLETED

Objective 3: Dr. Butina will assess the planning logistics and safety/travel risks to MLS students and faculty as members of a Randolph World Ministries medical mission team. Assessment will include travel to and from Haiti, airport safety risks, in-Haiti travel, phone access, medical emergency options, emergency evacuation protocols, lodging options, food and water supplies, adherence to laboratory safety protocols, and day to day activities.
PROGRESS: COMPLETED

Objective 4: Dr. Butina will prepare a summary of findings, including benefits, disadvantages, assessment of risks, and evaluation of logistics based on her participation in a Randolph World Ministries medical mission team.
PROGRESS: COMPLETED

Objective 5: Dr. Butina and other key stakeholders will determine whether participating with Randolph World Ministries is a viable option for the UK MLS Program and if so, should it be approved by the OIA.
PROGRESS: COMPLETED

Progress on Outcomes

Student Learning Outcome 1: MLS students will use their cognitive and psychomotor skills to perform the testing offered in the Haitian clinics visited.

Student Learning Outcome 2: MLS students will demonstrate the ability to professionally interact and work alongside their fellow UK students and other team members.

Student Learning Outcome 3: MLS students will demonstrate an awareness and respect for cultural differences.

Student Learning Outcome 4: MLS students will demonstrate the ability to be a reflective practitioner and person.

Student Learning Outcome 5: MLS students will demonstrate an awareness of civic responsibility.

Progress toward outcomes: The MLS student learning outcomes above were created in anticipation of offering a travel abroad experience in Haiti. After this exploratory project was completed, it was determined that participation with Randolph World Ministries was not a viable opportunity at this time. Therefore, these outcomes have not been implemented.

Project Summary

The goal of this project was to travel to Haiti, for two weeks, independently as a member of the Randolph World Ministries medical mission team for first-hand experience and observation. From this experience and insight gained, I could then decide if this is a viable opportunity for UK MLS students. The purpose of this project was to gain the experience necessary to determine if this is a worthy opportunity for the UK MLS students.

In June of 2012 I spent two weeks in Haiti as a member of the Randolph World Ministries medical mission team. During the trip I carefully assessed the travel process including housing and meals, mission logistics, travel risks and laboratory safety risks. Upon my return, I prepared a summary of my assessment and shared them with the MLS faculty members and the Dean.

The recurrent theme in my assessment was the lack of laboratory safety protocols and the great risk this presented to students. For example, phlebotomy safety devices were not available, lack of necessary personal protective equipment, and the stressful testing environment (heat, loss of power, noise, lack of organization, lack of space) were all major safety concerns. Another concern was the lack of leadership and organization of the medical mission teams. Due to the major safety concerns all stakeholders agreed that participating with Randolph World Ministries was not an option at this time.