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WSU BSOM GLOBAL HEALTH SCHOLARS PROGRAM



Let's give a warm welcome to the new BSOM Class of 2029! We are excited to share what our Global Health Scholars Program is all about. Come connect with us on our [webpage](#), [Instagram](#), or [Facebook](#).



Our Global Scholars had incredible, life-changing service learning opportunities this summer. We will highlight several trips over the next few newsletters.

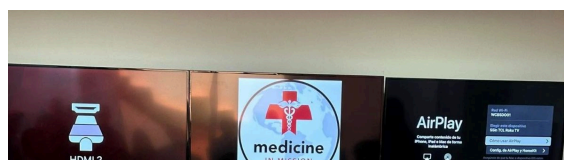
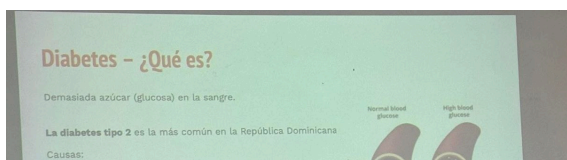
Medicine in Mission - Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Dr. Steven Repas ('22) is also a BSOM resident graduate ('25) and now an emergency medicine specialist attending physician in Dayton. He led a team of eight MS1s: Ahmad Amireh, Jordan Boyd, Benjamin Curl, Rudra Gandhi, Anisha Mandava, Brennan Schroeder, Marina Shenouda, and Samer Zidan.



This six day trip gave them an opportunity to learn, serve, educate, collaborate, and utilize their skills as rising second year medical students. As a team, *they learned a lot about tying information from the classroom to real-life patients*. Dr. Repas did a great job of pushing the students to not just identify abnormalities, but critically think through what could be happening and what could be used to treat patients. [Click here](#) to read Benjamin's Q & A, testimony's from Marina and Samer, and view a plethora of pictures of our Global Scholars in action!

This team learned and taught tactical emergency medicine skills to first responders, conducted health education on topics such as women health, sanitation, food and exercise first aid to differing populations in schools, churches, and impoverished communities. WSU EM Residency [posted highlights](#) on their Facebook page with pictures: "On April 9th, 2025, a major nightclub collapsed in the middle of Santo Domingo killing over 250 people including former MLB stars, pop culture icons, etc. This was the first time in their country that a mass casualty of this magnitude occurred. BSOM students and Dr. Repas worked with different entities (fire department, trauma center, DR EM residents, etc) to train them in tactical med and mass casualty management."







Child Family Health International - Manila, Philippines

Catherine Tran (MS1) traveled to the Philippines and spent 2 weeks on a rotation with Child Family Health International.



Catherine shares her challenges and rewards through her experience.

"I had the privilege to be in the Philippines for two weeks with Child Family Health International this past June! I spent my first week in the capital of Manila where I went to various clinical sites that ranged from a private hospital in one of Manila's upscale neighborhoods to an open-air traditional medicine market in order to have a grasp of the various healthcare options that patients have in the Philippines. In conjunction with these visits, physician colleagues from the University of Philippines brought my program group to major cultural sites in Manila and gave lectures about topics related to Filipino culture and history, the current political and socioeconomic situation of the Philippines, and how healthcare is provided throughout the country.

For my second week, I was assigned to Tingloy Island, which is about three hours away from Manila and accessible via ferry, with three other medical students from Chicago Medical School. During my time on the island, I had the honor to work with and observe what my physician preceptor, Dr. Pat Mandocdoc, and his staff at the island's Rural Health Unit (RHU), which is the island's main resource for medical care, does to care for the people of Tingloy. *The opportunities that I had on the island were assisting with free x-ray screenings for TB and observing vaccinations for children and infants as well as the day-to-day operations at the RHU.*

Throughout my stay in the Philippines, *I enjoyed every single moment of it because of the many opportunities* I had to affirm why I want to become a physician who wants to participate in global health. The most notable of these opportunities were observing the dedication from patients to receive treatment and healthcare colleagues providing said treatment at Philippine General Hospital (PGH), the country's largest tertiary public hospital, (special shoutout to Dr. Lopao and Dr. Kat for giving my group an extensive glimpse of what it's like to work at PGH along with everything else to make the program an enriching experience) and the dedication that Dr. Pat and his team at the RHU does to provide healthcare on Tingloy. It may sound cheesy, but *I can wholeheartedly say that my trip was transformative* such that I learned so much from my Filipino colleagues and what they had to teach and show not only about day-to-day life and healthcare in the Philippines but also what it means to be a dedicated and highly motivated physician."





FACULTY FOCUS

This summer **Dr. Conway** returned to her Global Health home in Guatemala to continue her work with [Mercado Global](#), an organization she has been working with since 2013 to support their community-based health education curriculum for rural women indigenous artisans.



Mercado Global was launched in 2004 with a mission to transform the lives of Indigenous women, their families, and their communities in Latin America. Through their nonprofit business model, they weave together monetary support, education, and access to the global market, providing the vital tools for women to gain financial independence and break the cycle of poverty. Their work is built off the evidence that when women have access to financial freedoms, they invest in their children's health and education. Dr. Conway has been implementing a "teach the teacher" model since then as a volunteer consultant and trainer for the women facilitators who go out to their own communities and teach Mercado Global's artisan co-op members modules including women's leadership, entrepreneurship, and health. Dr. Conway was accompanied by [Dr. Sarah Spurgeon](#) on this most recent trip where they focused on updating and teaching health curriculum related to perimenopause/menopause and nutrition. Dr. Conway says, "Check out your shopping options with [Mercado Global!](#) They make wonderful gifts and I know exactly who has made them for you!"







COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



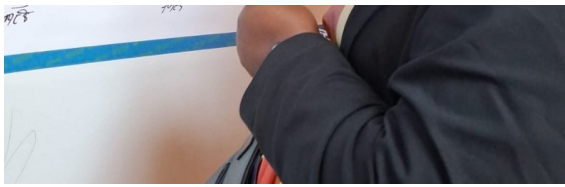
World Refugee Day was celebrated in June at the Dayton Metro Library. About 160 were in attendance. Representatives from **Colombia, Ecuador, Sudan, and Turkey** sang and performed traditional dances. Welcome Dayton had a fantastic panel with four local individuals who all came here as refugees. Aline Uwase from **Rwanda** was one of the panelists. Dr. Conway connected *Aline Uwase* with Jeannette Horwitz from Welcome Dayton. Aline has been great to work with! She is our “new Laurent” and our *Global Health Community Health Worker* – stay tuned for introductions in a future newsletter edition!

The variety of food came from **Cedarland (Lebanese), Taqueria Mixteca**

(Mexican) and SoSo Cuisine (African). Numerous local organizations had interactive tables where attendees could make crafts, learn about a specific country, share where they ate from on a giant map and more. There were also speakers from Refugee Congress (national organization) and Catholic Social Services (locally).

We are grateful for the many community members who donated to the personal care item drive for CSS's Refugee Resettlement Program!





Society of Refugee Healthcare Providers

Communicating Now: Framing for Health Equity

This toolkit was designed to help you communicate about health equity in today's political context. The toolkit is organized by needs you may be facing—for instance: balancing short-term and long-term communications goals, or

managing pressure to change language that's long been central to your work.

[Take Me To The Toolkit](#)

Connecting Refugee Health Professionals

There are a plethora of journal articles with topics ranging from doctors making a difference, community-based testing of migrants for infectious diseases, Characterizing Identifiers for Immigrant Populations in Electronic Health Records, and much more. There is also have an opportunity to have your publication featured! email hello@refugeesociety.org.

[See Journal Articles](#)



WHO launches new online course for health workers on caring for refugee and migrant populations

WHO Health and Migration has launched a [new e-learning course](#), "Global Competency Standards for the Provision of Health Services to Refugees and Migrants", designed to enhance the skills of health workers in delivering culturally sensitive and effective healthcare to refugee and migrant populations.

The course consists of six modules covering essential topics such as cultural competency, effective communication, interdisciplinary collaboration, evidence-based practices and professional conduct. It aims to empower healthcare professionals to create inclusive and equitable healthcare environments for refugees and migrants.

Participants will engage with a range of interactive materials including videos, presentations, case studies, exercises and quizzes. The competency-based approach ensures that learners acquire practical skills and apply knowledge in real-world scenarios. The flexible format allows health workers to complete the 6-hour course at their own pace, to increase accessibility.

Upon successful completion, participants will earn a Certificate of Achievement, recognizing their commitment to improving health services for refugee and migrant populations.

Video Message from WHO



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