

ABSTRACT: 2018 ELAM Institutional Action Project

Project Title: Global Health Equity Research and Education Program

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Topic Category: Education

Background, Significance of project: The intrinsic link between poverty and health creates health disparities globally and locally. The social and environmental determinants of health have significant impacts on population health worldwide. Academic institutions are uniquely poised to address these challenges through collaborative partnerships, public health research and education.

Purpose/Objectives: To align with the educational, research, community engagement and clinical missions of MCW by expanding medical and graduate education through integration of global health equity research and clinical practice and the development of a community engaged Global Health Equity Research and Education Program.

Methods/Approach/Evaluation Strategy: The Program is being developed in partnership with Makerere School of Public Health in Kampala Uganda. To provide a transformative learning experience we will design a Master's degree program in Global Health Equity. The approach is to 1) conduct interviews with institutional leaders; 2) meet with stakeholders including the medical student global pathway leaders, faculty who conduct global health research and potential students; 3) evaluate the existing MS programs in Global Health nationally; 4) establish a steering committee to create consensus on core competencies, curriculum and identify potential instructors; 5) cost analysis of implementing a new MS program and identify potential funding sources (internal and external) and tuition models for sustainability and expansion; 6) promote research through collaborative grant submissions that can also support trainees and students to gain experience in global health equity and community engaged research.

Outcomes/Results: Interviews have been completed with multiple leaders across campus who enthusiastically offered support and valuable input. There is a significant interest from faculty and students to participate. An evaluation of six of the most prestigious programs nationally has been completed with respect to requirements, courses, funding and costs. A steering committee is being assembled to evaluate core competencies. The cost analysis has been completed and the program profit threshold has been established related to number of students enrolled. Three R21's were submitted with our Makerere partners to promote research and provide training opportunities. Funding has been secured to support three medical students to conduct their mentored summer 2018 research programs at Makerere to establish engage with the community, collect pilot data, refine processes and produce manuscripts.

Discussion/Conclusion with Statement of Impact/Potential Impact: This program will be unique in that it will provide a transformative learning experience within a framework of community assets and engagement. This program will emphasize experiential learning and collaborations across campus and globally. Through international fieldwork, students will gain cultural sensitivity, self-awareness and respect for culture. The program will be designed to attract potential medical students who will enter medical school with these character strengths and unique skills, thus taking an important step toward advancing health equity.