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The authors and spouses/significant others have no financial interests to disclose.

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UEMF's Fellowship In International Emergency Medicine

Lawrence Proano, MD, DTMH, and Robert Partridge, MD, MPH

Part of the Department of Emergency Medicine at the Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown University, the **University Emergency Medicine Foundation (UEMF)** is comprised of almost 80 faculty members who provide care to the Emergency Departments at Rhode Island Hospital, The Miriam Hospital, and Hasbro Children's Hospital.

In addition to their clinical role, the faculty serve as teachers for the Emergency Medicine Residency Program and the Pediatric Emergency Medicine Fellowship. There is considerable depth of expertise in the group in various emergency medicine subspecialties, including pediatric emergency medicine, toxicology, ultrasound, prehospital care, disaster, geriatrics, and **international emergency medicine (IEM)**.

The Foundation sponsors and conducts several subspecialty post graduate fellowships in these areas. Among these is a two-year Fellowship in International Emergency Medicine. The Foundation accepted its initial fellow in 2005. Applicants are selected from accredited emergency medicine residencies in the US and Canada. The program requires all entering Fellows to complete a **Master's Degree in Public Health (MPH)** at Brown University.

The goal of the Fellowship is to produce an individual who possesses the skills to pursue a several potential career pathways within the broad field of IEM. After completion of the Fellowship, the individual should be competent in prac-

ticing clinical emergency medicine in international settings with variable medical resources, teaching IEM, performing research involving IEM, and familiar with administrative issues in the field. Fellows accomplish these goals over 24 months, with some portion of their time spent in hospital emergency departments affiliated with Brown University.

CORE CONTENT OBJECTIVES FOR THE IEM FELLOWSHIP

During training, the Fellows learn the principles of IEM, and the options for a career in this field. Training includes:

- ❖ Acquisition of an MPH degree from Brown University, with a focus on some aspect of international studies relating to IEM
- ❖ Opportunity for diploma certification in tropical medicine from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. Successful candidates receive a **Diploma in Tropical Medicine (DTM)**, an internationally recognized certificate.
- ❖ Opportunity for a one-month course in **Humanitarian Emergencies in Large Populations (HELP)**, offered by Johns Hopkins University.

Areas of study during the IEM Fellowship

As part of the MPH, Fellows pursue at least one major academic project for

each of two years out of the country, involving one of the following:

- Research
- Quality improvement
- Injury Prevention
- Subspecialty areas within emergency medicine
- Development of trauma systems, protocols and policies
- Education and training of emergency physicians, residents, medical students, medical officers in various countries, mid-level providers, nurses, and prehospital personnel
- Development of emergency medical service systems

During both Fellowship years, the Fellow spends approximately 16 hours weekly in one of the UEMF Emergency Departments providing clinical care. Fellows begin a two-year Masters of Public Health degree program at Brown Medical School in which they focus on acquiring public health concepts that are specifically applicable to international studies. First-year Fellows participate in a seminar series on research design, epidemiology and biostatistics. They begin participating in an ongoing research project that is in-keeping with the goals of the Fellowship and MPH Programs. Submission of a report or pilot study for publication is the desired goal for the first year.

During the second Fellowship year, Fellows complete research

projects to meet the requirements of the Fellowship as well as his or her MPH degree.

Fellows are encouraged to seek funding for research interests from outside sources, in close collaboration with the Fellowship Director. Fellows are strongly encouraged to submit research results for presentations at national meetings and to complete manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals.

During the Fellowship program, the training and educational opportunities encompass multiple areas within IEM, including:

- **Emergency Medical System development**

Fellows have the opportunity to work in developing emergency medical systems (EMS) in foreign countries. This could involve work in countries in early stages of EMS development as well as countries who have already formed an EMS system.

- **Research**

Through the year Fellows engage in one or more research projects related to international emergency medicine, with resultant manuscripts suitable for publication.

- **Travel medicine**

Fellows learn the basics of providing travel counseling and have the opportunity to consult with patients presenting to travel medicine clinics.

- **Disaster medicine**

Fellows can become involved in international disaster medicine opportunities as they present. Locally, they will have the opportunity to serve as a member of the Rhode Island **disaster medical assistance team** (DMAT).

- **Infectious disease**

Fellows learn the concepts of tropical medicine and imported tropical illnesses for patients seen in the emergency department or admitted with internationally acquired infectious diseases.

- **Disaster relief and humanitarian assistance**

Fellows can become involved in international disaster medicine opportunities as they present throughout the year and serve as a member of DMAT. Opportunities for humanitarian assistance and international relief are also available.

- **Education in IEM**

Fellows can become involved in IEM education locally, by providing lectures on IEM for the UEMF residency program, and through international educational programs conducted in foreign countries.

The IEM Fellowship accepts up to 2 candidates each year. Current fellows are engaged in clinical care, teaching and research projects in Liberia and Ghana. Previous graduates continue to focus their work in Central America and Samoan Islands in the Pacific.

CONCLUSION

IEM is a rapidly expanding subspecialty within the discipline of emergency medicine, in part because emergency medicine training provides a strong foundation for providing clinical care and improving the delivery of health care in other countries. As the Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown University expands its international activities, UEMF's Fellowship in IEM within the Department of Emergency Medicine is structured to play an integral role.

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