This issue of the Rhode Island Medical Journal continues RIMJ’s special themed section on Brown University’s Program in Liberal Medical Education; Part 1 appeared in July [http://rimed.org/rimedicaljournal/2015/07/2015-07-14-plme-complete.pdf]. Part 2 offers an overview of our medical exchange programs designed to offer our students international perspectives on health care systems, delivery and innovation; it also offers a sample of our students’ research interests.

Currently, we have 12 exchange programs; exchanges involve students from our international partners attending Brown’s fourth-year clinical electives and Brown students going to our international partner schools for either clinical electives or an arranged experience which I will briefly review for each program where it is pertinent. In all cases, teaching in our international exchange partner institutions is in English but whenever possible, possessing conversational language skills for the host country are encouraged. All exchanges offer clinical elective rotations (generally for our fourth-year medical students) and most will accommodate our students for research as well. I have outlined some “special programs” for our exchanges that offer them.

In the Far East, we have exchanges with:

- Zhejiang University School of Medicine, Hangzhou China: four reflections are provided in this issue to give the readers a sense of the special summer program; a four-week Introduction to Traditional Chinese Medicine.
- National Cheng Kung University School of Medicine, Tainan, Taiwan offers a two-week summer course on Comparative Medical Systems and Traditional Chinese Medicine.
- Tokyo Women’s Medical University, Tokyo, Japan.
- Kyoto University School of Medicine, Kyoto, Japan: special note of public health research given the Fukushima nuclear plant is close by.

In Europe:

- Rostock University School of Medicine, Rostock Germany: two-week summer school course: topics vary but most recently Aging and Comparative Health Systems.
- Tubingen University School of Medicine, Tubingen, Germany: two-week summer school course in Comparative Health Care Systems and Medical Ethics; or four-week Critical Care rotation (Brown intensivists faculty/fellows participating alongside our students).
- University of Bologna School of Medicine

In Africa:

- Kenya-Moi Eldoret, Kenya: month-long clinical elective alongside Brown faculty both Infectious Disease and Pulmonary.
- Ghana- University of Ghana and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology

In South/Central America:

- University of Nicaragua
- Haiti (on hold)
- Federal University of Medicine Sao Paolo, Sao Paolo, Brazil

And finally, I have included scientific research pieces that our students have written highlighting another core competency, lifelong learning. All Brown’s PLME and AMS students are intellectually curious, strive for academic rigor and look to solve ongoing problems in the world. A quick note: these pieces were all voluntarily submitted when I sent out a general call for student participation. These are not necessarily representative of all the students’ work but those who chose to share.

SUMMARY

In summary, this is a very brief overview of some of the work that is being done at Brown’s Program in Liberal Medical Education and the Alpert Medical School. I appreciate the opportunity to showcase our students and their work. These are the physician leaders of Rhode Island’s future in health care and beyond.

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