

International Health Elective Clerkship

MALAWI

The International Health Elective Clerkship provides an introduction for medical students to the practice of medicine in a resource-poor setting. The overall goals of this clerkship are to

- Increase awareness of issues involved in the delivery of health care in developing countries.
- Promote development of the student's professional attitude, behavior and sensitivity to the challenges and issues of health care in developing countries.
- Acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to function in health care settings in developing countries.
- Develop a cultural awareness (customs, nutrition, traditional medical beliefs, etc.) of the patient population.

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES:

- To learn the etiology, diagnosis, management and control of local endemic and epidemic infectious diseases.
- To provide general patient care using the resources available.
- To learn to care for patients with the assistance of interpreters.
- To derive differential diagnoses and develop management plans utilizing the resources available in the setting.
- To develop professionally in a new setting by
 - demonstrating ethical behavior
 - developing collegial relationships with peers and staff
 - devoting adequate attention to emotional and physical self-care
 - displaying a willingness to be enriched by the overseas experience.



COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- Attend an orientation seminar prior to departure.
- Complete required paperwork satisfactorily.
- Spend at least six weeks in Malawi.
- Demonstrate financial capability
 - airfare (see "Travel & Accommodations")
 - room and board (see "Travel & Accommodations")
 - University of Malawi College of Medicine fee (\$50/week).
 - registration with the Medical Council of Malawi (approx \$100)

PERSONAL PROTECTION:

Students are strongly encouraged to complete the immunizations listed in this brochure before traveling to Malawi and to comply with a malaria prophylaxis regimen. In addition, students must realize that they may be exposed to diseases for which there is no prophylaxis or vaccination (traveler's diarrhea, AIDS, intestinal helminths, schistosomiasis, onchocerciasis) and that reasonable self-care precautions should be taken.

BASE HOSPITAL:

The Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital is one of two central hospitals serving Malawi, and as such, receives patients from all over the Southern Region of the country. It is a 900 bed hospital, with specialists in Internal Medicine, OB/GYN, Pediatrics and Surgery (general surgery, orthopedics, pediatric surgery). It is also a teaching hospital; medical students, nurses and medical assistants (paramedical workers) are trained on the wards at QECH, and receive didactic instruction from the various specialists. Students from abroad also commonly rotate through the QECH; patients and personnel are accustomed to their presence. Although few of the patients speak English, many of those working at the hospital do. They can serve as translators until MSU students learn enough of the local language to function independently in the hospital.

ELECTIVE OPTIONS:

A wide variety of clinical experiences can be arranged. While the details of each service will be at the discretion of the attending physicians, Dr. Taylor will supervise MSU students in Malawi in conjunction with her work at the Blantyre Malaria Project. There is a top limit of 2 students per elective during any one block.

- **Internal Medicine** (general, TB, HIV-related disease): Includes inpatient care and outpatient clinics.
- **OB/GYN:** On average, there are 50-60 deliveries/day at the QECH, including many complicated and prolonged labors.
- **Pediatrics:** A wide variety of pediatric problems are seen, on the wards, and in the Paediatric Accident & Emergency area.
- **Surgery:** The surgical suites are shared by general surgeons, pediatric, ENT, and orthopedic surgeons.
- **AETC (Adult Accident and Emergency Trauma Centre):** A new rotation in 2014, the AETC is the initial entry point for sick and injured adults. It functions similarly to an ED in the US.





TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION:

Travel arrangements are not difficult, but should be made in advance, especially if one is traveling at holiday times. One can travel via Johannesburg, South Africa; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; or Nairobi, Kenya. Round trip costs from Detroit are approximately \$2,500. While in Blantyre, students may stay with Dr. Taylor -- other options are available, though. Rent for 6 weeks is \$500; weekly living expenses can easily be kept below \$100. There will be opportunities for traveling within Malawi; bus services are extensive and inexpensive. Students with particular interests in mountain climbing, hiking, camping, squash, tennis, snorkeling, etc., should bring the necessary equipment along.

SUGGESTED IMMUNIZATIONS:

See the travel nurses at Olin Health Center for up-to-date advice! Some or all of these may be recommended:

- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis A vaccine or gamma globulin.
- Polio (oral boosters recommended once in adulthood for visitors to Malawi).
- Tetanus (boosters recommended every 10 years).
- Typhoid, cholera and rabies are optional.
- Yellow fever vaccination is not necessary for travel to Malawi, but is worth considering for travel outside Malawi.



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APPLICATION PROCESS:

Interested students should prepare a letter of request to the Coordinator for Elective Rotations
(not to Dr. Taylor).

University of Malawi College of Medicine
P/B 360
Blantyre 3
Malawi

The letter should include the following information:

- Your status as 4th (final) year student
- Your preferred rotations (in order of preference)
- Your preferred blocks. Please rank these blocks in order of preference in case the volume of requests prevents us from honoring your preferred dates.

Block 1 January 4 – February 12, 2016

Block 2 February 15 – March 25, 2016

Block 3 March 28 – May 6, 2016

(if necessary, and if your academic record permits, time can be shaved off Block 3 to attend graduation!)

- A current curriculum vita (resumé)

In addition, please submit a one-page essay describing why you'd like to participate in this elective. In the event that the elective is over-subscribed, these essays will be anonymized and evaluated by three people, including Dr. Taylor, to help determine a rank order of applicants.

The CV (resumé), letter, and essay should all be submitted via Angel to the dropbox at the **SPRING 2016 IM 621 CLINICAL TROPICAL MEDICINE CLERKSHIP** site (listed under My Angel Groups), by **JANUARY 31st, 2015**.

Upon doing so, please notify Dr. Taylor's assistant, Steve Stone at stonest@msu.edu. Your application will be considered complete **ONLY** when Mr. Stone replies to you.

Decisions regarding who is accepted, and for which rotation, will be made by Dr. Taylor in conjunction with the faculty at the University of Malawi College of Medicine. If the need arises, you will be contacted about alternative times and/or alternative elective options - - be prepared to be flexible!

You will be notified of your selection as soon as possible, but probably not before early March, 2015.



Michigan State University
College of Osteopathic Medicine
Department of Osteopathic Medical Specialties

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