



Tropical Medicine

High Patient Volume in a Resource Limited Setting

GH₂DP participants care for patients with little to no access to healthcare in rural Latin America. Participants encounter a wide variety of illnesses, ranging from tropical infectious diseases such as dengue, chikungunya, intestinal helminth infections, Chagas disease and leishmaniasis to infectious dermatologic processes such as scabies and tinea. With an emphasis on clinical history and physical examination, trip participants learn key disease features and management in a resource limited setting.




Public Health

A key focus of GH₂DP is improving population health via public health projects. Our keystone public health project is our water filter program. To date we have distributed 490 water filters, each of which can provide clean drinking water to an entire family for 2 years. We also have facilitated the installation of several cistern-based chlorination distribution systems.

Additionally, we have projects targeting sanitation, air pollution and have a large scale de-worming project. We have performed numerous assessments at the request of our community partners over the years, with topics ranging from access to medical care to cervical cancer screening to knowledge, attitudes and risk for acquiring various infectious diseases.

Find Out More:

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VCU

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GH₂DP

Global Health & Health Disparities Program

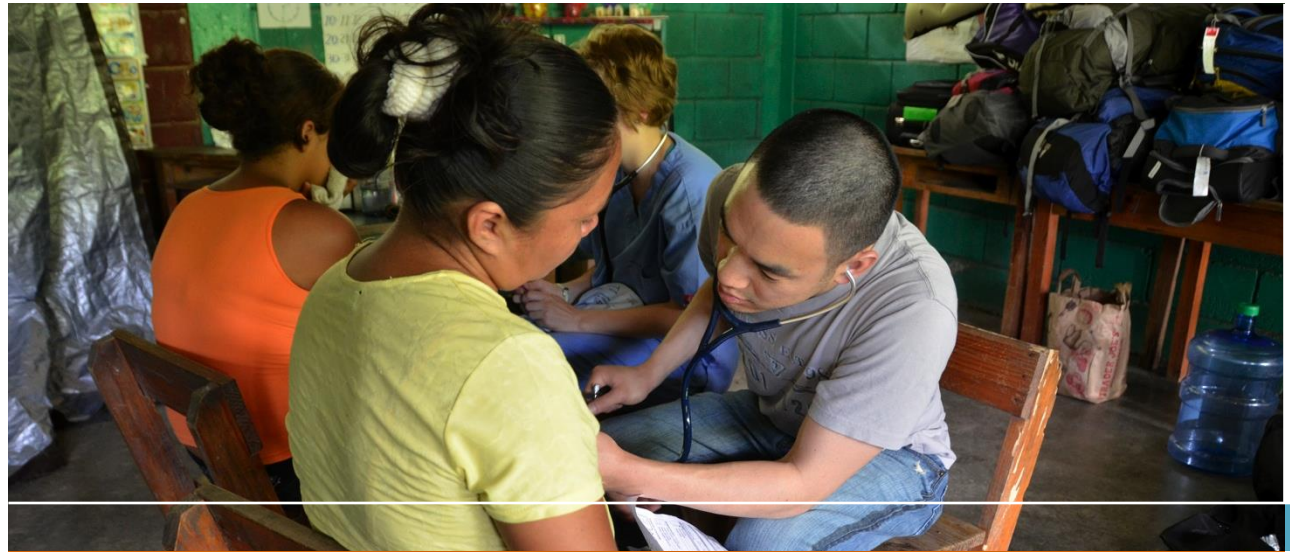
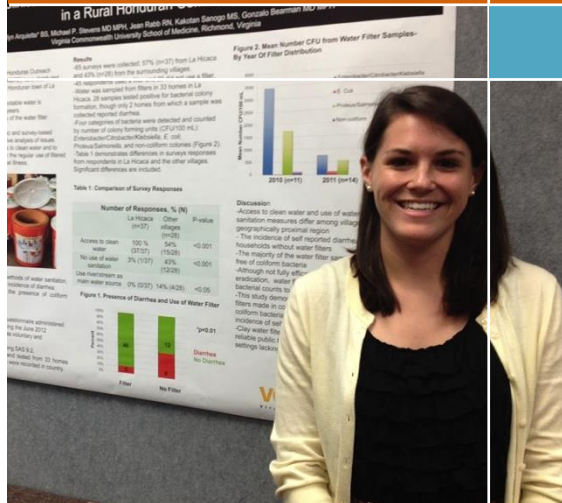


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Research Opportunities

A key feature of GH₂DP is utilizing research to help drive our clinical and public health missions forward and to share our experiences with others. Numerous students, residents and fellows have been involved leading to over 45 presentations at local, regional, national and international conferences as well as numerous publications.

Via expert mentorship, students, residents and fellows have the ability to design a project and carry it through every stage of the research process.



"The trip to Yoro, Honduras has significantly altered my medical world view. It has shown me that academic, data driven efforts can be applied to resource poor settings and achieve real, sustainable good."
 -Dr. Jeff Wang

Since 2006 the VCU Department of Internal Medicine, via the Global Health & Health Disparities Program (GH₂DP), has sent medicine residents, fellows and students to remote areas of Honduras to participate in direct medical relief work as well as public health projects.

We primarily serve patients in and around La Hicaca in the Department of Yoro area of Northern Honduras. This is a rural, mountainous area with limited to no access to medical care. Approximately 1,200 people live in this area across 17 different villages. Our outreach trips are designed to provide care to the majority of residents living in these villages.

Since 2006 we have involved over 50 residents and fellows on these outreach trips and have involved approximately 70 medical students, as well. We have seen nearly 13,000 patients and have helped to distribute, test and maintain over 490 water filters (each of which can provide

clean water to an entire household for 2 years).

In terms of global health education, the **GH₂DP Residency Pathway** is a 2 year experience offered to medicine residents that allows them in-depth clinical and research experience working in both Honduras and local free clinics. Additionally, the **GH₂DP Student Scholars Program** allows medical and other graduate students similar in-depth clinical and research opportunities.

