

## **MCH and Perinatal Care for Ethnic Minorities in Thai Nguyen Province, Vietnam**

**Location:** Hanoi, Vietnam

**Offered:** Summer Term 2014

**Duration:** 4-8 weeks (4 week minimum for Geisel, 8 week undergraduates)

**Lodging:** Hostel or Homestay

**Number of open position:** 01

### **Site Supervisors:**

Vietnam: Dr. Nguyen Thanh Liem, Deputy Director, Institute of Population, Health and Development (PHAD), Hanoi

- Additional support provided by Dr. Nguyen Kieu Cuong, and Ms. Ha Thanh Nguyen, staff members at PHAD

### **Description:**

The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) and Perinatal Care for Ethnic Minorities (EM) Project, funded by IDRC, Canada, is currently being implemented in Thai Nguyen, Vietnam. The overall goal of the project is to improve the MCH of EM people living in mountainous and difficult-to-reach areas of Vietnam. The project intervention examines a feasibility of a mobile-Health (m-Health) solution integrating a newly available Health Management Information System (HMIS) in Thai Nguyen and low-cost mobile technology through a user-provider interaction model. An HMIS-integrated smart Reproductive Health (RH) Information Center (RHIC) is developed to provide timely RH information-education-communication (IEC) and reminding messages to EM women (EMW) via either short message service (SMS) or phone calls with an aim to encourage their use of RH services, increase their awareness of potential risk factors, or to seek emergency care if necessary.

During the summer of 2014, the project will be at the implementation phase of the project with series of activities including training for commune health clinics to participate in the project, development of IEC materials advocating the project and safe delivery, development of training materials, capacity training for Commune Health Center (CHC) staffs on quality of RH care. The student will join the research team based out of PHAD, where they will learn how to use the interactive SMS system to strengthen MCH and RH care for ethnic minorities, and then go into various rural areas and lead trainings (using PowerPoint and video aids and the Internet) for commune health workers. Upon returning to Hanoi, they will monitor how well the system is being used by each CHC and troubleshoot accordingly. Developing of enhanced training materials, improving data collection and analysis metrics, and developing partnerships with other academic institutions and clinics in country are all possible goals for the student fellow and will be explored further based on each student's background and interests.

**Expectations:**

The student should be highly adaptable in a non-English speaking environment, prepared to work 40 or more hours a week, and be comfortable traveling to remote areas of Vietnam (and possibly staying for a few days) to implement the project and conduct trainings. The student should be willing to take on additional responsibilities and projects as needed. Familiarity with some aspects of computer programming is not essential but helpful.

**Who should apply?**

Students with an interest in global public health, global mental health, medicine, epidemiology, software development, statistics, anthropology, and health policy should consider applying. Students with some background in computer science or statistics are highly encouraged to apply.

**Student qualifications:**

- Medical student or completion of freshman year by summer 2014
- Willingness to live independently and commute using non-English speaking public transportation