

PHAD Global Mental Health Fellowship in 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. Vu Cong Nguyen, Deputy Director, Institute of Population, Health and Development (PHAD), Hanoi

- Additional support provided by Ms. Jill Murphy and Ms. Linh Thuy Dang, staff members at PHAD

Description:

The Global Mental Health Project, a collaborative project between PHAD and Simon Fraser University (SFU), Canada, intends to examine the feasibility of an approach that aims to effect changes to primary health care practice through a carefully coordinated and supported detection and intervention program designed specifically to enhance the quality of mental health services amongst primary healthcare practitioners. The project's implementations includes: the incorporation of enhanced, yet very brief standardized assessment of common mental health conditions; adherence to brief effective interventions when indicated, and; implementation of a 'supported self-management' strategy that has been shown to be effective and also has the benefit of engaging patients, families and communities in health promotion and illness prevention strategies. This two-year-long project will be undertaken in an urban area (Hanoi) and also in a rural area in the northern region of Vietnam and will start in late December 2013.

During the summer of 2014, the project will move from the preparation to the implementation phase of the project with a series of activities including: selection of 10 commune health clinics to participate in the project, identification and selection of 40 patients diagnosed with depression, development of MOU with provincial and local health authorities, conduct qualitative study with psychiatrist, mental health specialist, public health specialist, local communities, translation of program materials into Vietnamese, validated to use in project sites, the development of educational intervention protocol, online course contents and implementing on-line course. The student will join the training team based out of PHAD, where they will learn how to use the online training system themselves, and then go into various rural areas and assist in the delivery of 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 commune health center 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