# MED 891C Global Health Externship

# **Questions to Consider in Choosing an International Elective Site**

### 1. Ethical Questions to Consider

- What are my motivations?
- What are your global health objectives?
- Is this a one-time rotation or an ongoing project (i.e., short term medical mission trip vs long term clinic or community project)?

#### 2. Personal attributes essential for international work

- Flexibility, and humility are essential.
- Have you considered your tolerance for:
  - Travel uncertainties/risks/costs
  - Uncomfortable living conditions
  - Theft risk
  - Challenging cultural expectations
  - Disease/injury exposure
  - o Frustrations about inability to help

### 3. Identify what broad scope of global health opportunities interest you.

- Clinical vs. research vs. education vs. public health vs. advocacy
- Rural vs. urban, Inpatient vs. outpatient, Specialty vs. Primary care
- New vs. established program
- Costs of rotation
- What do you hope to bring back to your community from this experience and who will you share it with?

#### 4. Timing

• Identify length of rotation (2-4weeks) and when you will go.

## 5. Geography/language

• Is there a country or locale you would like to travel to?

- Are there special language requirements? Do you speak other languages? Are there interpreters if you do not speak the local language?
- How stable and safe is the location?

## 6. Other considerations

Do you have any specific health needs or requirements (i.e., DM1 and need for refrigeration)?

## 7. Organization-specific questions

- What is the organization's mission?
  - O How long has the organization been in this community?
  - o Is this a profit or non-profit?
  - o Religious or government or NGO or academic affiliation?
- Has another student traveled with the organization in the past? Evaluation of their experience?
- Look up the organization on GuideStar <a href="https://www.guidestar.org/search">https://www.guidestar.org/search</a>
  - What type of preparation, in-country support, and post-exposure debriefing is provided?
  - Will there be a preceptor on-site for the entire elective?
  - Logistics for the site? (dress code, accommodations, internet, transportation, food, water, safety)?