

CURRICULU

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INTRODUCTION

During early IHMEC organizing meetings much debate centered on a proposed uniform curriculum for preparing medical students and residents for international health work. Using a modified Delphi process, an essential core curriculum outline of suggested topics was developed, which is reproduced from *Academic Medicine* in the table below

The IHMEC Curriculum Committee has continued development of suggested curricula in international health. Most recent work includes preparation of an annotated list of recommended books and articles that provide an introduction to the scope of international health. The initial listing targets medical students, residents, and faculty members interested in international health, but who may lack extensive experience in the field. The project is ongoing, and subsequent lists are envisioned to contain readings at progressively more advanced levels. Several readily available references were selected for each module, with an estimated reading time of ten hours or less per module.

TOPICS FOR AN INTERNATIONAL HEALTH CURRICULUM

From Heck J, Pust R. A National Consensus on the Essential International Health Curriculum for Medical Schools. *Academic Medicine*. 68(1993):596-98.

Essential Topics

Malnutrition
Family Planning and Population Programs
Immunizations (WHO's EPI/Cold Chain)
Understanding Cross-Cultural Barriers
Maternal - Child Health
Sanitation (Clean Water, Sewage, Waste Disposal)
Community Health Care (Several Subtopics)

Less Important Topics

Amebic Diseases
Traditional Medicine
Medical Anthropology for Medical Students
Epidemiology Research
Viral Infections
Dermatology

Optional Topics

Dental Health	Poisonous and Toxic Plants and Animals
Mycoses	International Traveler Medicine
Ophthalmology	Mental Health
Refugee Health Care	Rickettsial and Chlamydial Infections
Surgery for Generalists	Disaster Health Care
Physical Rehabilitation	

METHOD

Twelve core areas have been identified by the committee as important for physicians preparing for work abroad. The selection of topics was achieved by consensus among members who have participated in clinical work in developing countries, and who are in positions of guiding others preparing for international experiences.

Subcommittees were formed to formulate an initial list by examining the available English language literature. Each subcommittee's list was then posted for comments by the general IHMEC membership through the organization's listserv. Several excellent references and sources could not unfortunately be included due to limitations of this method; those on the list were generally agreed to be broad, timely, and readily available. Periodic updates will be provided, to include references for more advanced readers. Initial reference lists in the following areas have been completed:

- Global/Environmental Health (including refugees, sanitation, environmental health, war, and violence)
- Cross Cultural and Primary Health Care
- Ethics and Advocacy
- Maternal-Child Health
- Mental Health

Global/Environmental Health:

The World Commission on the Environment and Development: Our Common Future (The Brundtland Report) Geneva: The World

Commission on the Environment and Development, 1987.

UNHCR, *The State of the World's Refugees 1993*. The Challenge of Protection (Chapter One). New York: UNHCR, 1993.

Subcommittee comment: *Describes complexities of working with refugees from a broad-based perspective.*

Murray C, Lopez A. Mortality by cause for eight regions of the world: Global Burden of Disease Study *Lancet* Vol 349; May 3, 1997.

Subcommittee comment: *A classic article looking at health and mortality by the year 2020. The four articles in the Lancet series on the Global Burden of Disease Study (May 3, 10, 17, 24, 1997) are highly recommended.*

Field of Dreams, *New Internationalist* 283(1996).

Subcommittee comment: *For the beginner, a good article about life in a refugee settlement. This is not scientific, but a good way to get exposure to refugee life.*

International Institute for Environment and Development Perspective, *Rio: The Lessons Learned*. No. 9, 1992.

Subcommittee comment: *A good overview of the Rio de Janeiro Conference and simple environmental interventions.*

Cross Cultural and Primary Health Care

Ferrinho P, Robb D, Cornielje H, Rex G, Primary Health Care in Support of Community Development, *World Health Forum*. 14(1993): 158-162.

Subcommittee comment: *Example from the Alexandra Health Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa – attention to community needs beyond basic medical coverage*

Reerink I, Sauerbom R, Quality of Primary Health Care in Developing Countries, Recent Experience and Future Directions, *International Journal for Quality in Health Care* 8(1996): 131-139.

Subcommittee comment: *Good review of issue of quality control in primary health care, with practical suggestions for monitoring and improving quality.*

Stone L. Cultural Influences in Community Participation in Health. *Social Science and Medicine*. 35(1992): 409-417.

Subcommittee comment: *Analysis of some major cultural influences in success and failure of primary health care initiatives.*

Mull D. Innovation and Behavior Change: Applied Anthropology Strategies for International Health and Cross-Cultural Medicine. *Infectious Disease Clinics of North America*. 9(1995):245-64.

Coreil J, Mull D (eds.) *Anthropology and Primary Health Care*, Westview Press, 1990.

Subcommittee comment: *Good anthology of articles on cultural issues in primary health care.*

Werner D. *Where there is No Doctor; a Village Health Care Handbook*. Hesperian Foundation, 1995.

Subcommittee comment: *World standard textbook directed primarily toward training community health workers, but also an excellent and simple discussion of community oriented philosophy of primary health care.*

Werner D, Bower B. *Helping Health Workers Learn*. Hesperian Foundation, 1992.

Subcommittee comment: *Again, a world standard textbook for training community health workers, with excellent teaching methodologies.*

Galanti G. *Caring for Patients from Different Cultures; Case Studies from American Hospitals*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 1997.

Maternal-Child Health

Wallace H, Giri, K (eds.) *Health Care of Women and Children in Developing Countries*, Oakland: Third Part Publishing Co., 1995.

Subcommittee comment: *This is probably the most comprehensive introductory text available on the subject.*

Ebrahaim G. *Practical Mother and Child Health in Developing Countries*. New York, MacMilland Education Ltd., fourth edition, 1990.

UNICEF *State of the World's Children*. Published annually for UNICEF by Oxford University Press.

Subcommittee comment: *A good summary with latest statistics on child health and welfare around the world.*

Walsh A, et al. Maternal and Perinatal Health. In *Disease Control Priorities in Developing Countries*. Oxford University Press, 1993.

Timyan J, Griffey Brechin S, Measham D, Ogunleye B. Access to Care: More than a Problem of Distance, in *The Health of Women: A Global Perspective*. Westview Press, 1993.

Mental Health

Desjarlais R, Eisenberg L, Good B, Kleinman A. *World Mental Health: Problems and Priorities in Low-Income Countries*. Oxford University Press, 1995.

Subcommittee comment: *A general overview that covers the burden of suffering imposed by mental and behavioral health problems on low income societies in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East.*

Kleinman, Arthur and Cohen, Alex. Psychiatry's Global Challenge. *Scientific American*. 3(1997):74-77

Subcommittee comment: *A general overview that deals with psychiatric myths in cross-cultural settings.*

Patel V, Winston M. 'Universality of Mental Illness' Revisited: Assumptions, Artifacts and New Directions. *British Journal of Psychiatry* 165(1994):437-440

Subcommittee comment: *A general look at the universality of some mental illnesses even though the labels and categories may be different.*

Lukoff, D, Lu F, Turner R. Toward a More Culturally Sensitive DSM-IV: Psychoreligious and Psychospiritual Problems. *Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*. 11(1992):673-681.

Subcommittee comment: *A more specific look at psychiatric diagnosis in the cross-cultural setting.*

Westermeyer, J. Psychiatric Diagnosis Across Cultural Boundaries. *American Journal of Psychiatry*. 142(1985): 798-805.

Subcommittee comment: *A second more specific article dealing with psychiatric diagnosis in the cross-cultural setting.*

Ethics and Advocacy

Taylor C. Ethics for an International Health Profession. *Science*. 153(1966): 716-720.

Singer H. The Ethics of Aid. In *Rights and Obligations in North-South Relations*. MacMillan, 1986.

Foege W. In Search of a National Agenda for International Health Problems, *American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*, 42 (1990): 293-297.

Faden R, Nancy K. HIV Research, Ethics, and the Developing World, *American Journal of Public Health*. 88(1998): 548-50.

Annas G, Grodin M. Ethics and Studies of HIV, *American Journal of Public Health*, 88(1998): 560-63.

Karim S. Placebo Controls in HIV Perinatal Transmission Trials: A South African's Viewpoint, *American Journal of Public Health*. 88(1998): 564-66.

Bayer R. The Debate over Maternal-Fetal HIV Transmission Prevention Trials in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean: Racist Exploitation or Exploitation of Racism? *American Journal of Public Health*, 88(1998): 567-70.