

INTRODUCTION

The International Health Medical Education Consortium (IHMEC) was founded in 1991 by a group of medical school educators and other academicians with the goal to strengthen the teaching of international health at all levels of medical education. It has established a network of clinical opportunities overseas and has defined stronger career tracks for residents and students in international health. IHMEC's mission is to foster education in four program areas:

- Curricula
- Clinical training
- Career development
- International health education policy

Since its foundation IHMEC has hosted nine annual conferences in various cities including most recently San Diego and Costa Rica and Chicago. Fifty medical schools are institutional members, and conferences typically attract over 300 participants.

IHMEC has had a longstanding tradition of sharing programs and expertise with medical student and resident members. IHMEC faculty members represent expertise in a wide range of international health activities such as curriculum, evaluation, liability, cross cultural exchanges, and international health site selection.

This document represents a compilation of experiences from a wide variety of faculty and medical school experiences. Each chapter was initially written by a past or current member of IHMEC's Governing Council, then reviewed by other faculty members. Criteria used for determining information relevant for inclusion are simple: what questions are we most often asked concerning student and resident international health experiences? Therefore, the guidebook is intended for use by medical educators and administrators who serve in advisory roles for students and residents preparing for learning experiences abroad. Final versions of each chapter were agreed upon by original authors and the editors Drs. Heck and Wedemeyer.

It is our hope this document will prove helpful for medical school faculty advisors, and ultimately the students and residents who will benefit from sound advice, planning, and evaluation.

For more information about IHMEC, please contact the office of the Secretariat for IHMEC, c/o Department of Medicine, Indiana School of Medicine, M200, Wishard Hospital, 1001 Wth Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202.

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