Global Health Advocate Program in Surgery

Mission with Lane Haitian Relief (LHR) Team
Cayes Jacmel, Haiti

Description of General Surgical Rotation in Cayes Jacmel, Haiti
Centrale Medical Emanuel Hospital is the primary surgical and gynecologic care for Cayes de Jacmel, Haiti, a rural community with a population of 20,000 in the southern region of the country. This clinical experience is a short term clinical visit that is part of a longer term relationship between this community and the Lane Haitian Relief staff. You and one other resident can expect a busy clinical experience spanning the full breadth of general surgery as well as gynecology, ENT and even orthopedics and urology. It is important to be prepared for operating under adverse circumstances with limited resources. Additionally, surgical pathophysiology that is essentially unknown in the United States as well as tropical infectious diseases will broaden your diagnostic and therapeutic skills. The major goal of this rotation is to increase your understanding of global surgical disease and provide a basis for future international work.

The resources available in Haiti are significantly different than in the United States. This is obvious in the hospital where complex laboratory investigations, advanced imaging and complex peri-operative care are non-existent. Diagnosis and management rely upon physical exam, history and the limited laboratory and plain film imaging available as well as judicious use of limited surgical and medical supplies. This resource limitation is less obvious, but no less important, in the lives of our patients. Malnutrition is endemic and often patients are unable to afford or access the complex post-operative care we take for granted in the United States, such as enterostomal therapy. Medical decision making and operative approaches must be adjusted to take these factors into account.

In addition to surgical care of patients, we expect that you will develop and implement either a public health educational intervention or process improvement for the next two residents to travel to Haiti. We additionally expect that you will work to understand the Haitian culture and how this impacts our surgical care. This is not an isolated clinical experience, but one part of an ongoing international partnership. We expect that you will take an active role in the logistical planning and resource gathering for your trip.

The cases you take part in during this trip, while educational, do not formally count towards residency case numbers as this is a purely volunteer effort. It will, additionally, likely be necessary to use vacation time for this trip. Hopefully this will not always be the case but at least for the first several residents, it may be unavoidable. Similarly, while we are in the process of raising funds for the Global Health Advocate Program in Surgery, the first few residents may need to fund their own travel. While room and board will be very inexpensive, approximately $300 for the week, international flights have the potential to be quite expensive ($800 to $1300).
Surgical Resident Experience with Lane Haitian Relief

Application to participate in the upcoming Lane Haitian Relief trip.

Name:______________________________________________________________________

PGY: ______________________________________________________________________

Please provide a brief response to the following questions and include with your CV.

1. Why are you interested in including this experience in your surgical training? What will you gain that is not available in Portland?

2. Do you plan to incorporate international health into your future career? If so, how would you do this? If not, why does this trip appeal to you?

3. What are your future career plans? Do you plan to subspecialize?

4. Do you have any prior international health experience? Do you have prior rural or underserved population health outreach experience in the United States? If so please briefly describe, including how these experiences have impacted your career choices, outlook on medicine and surgery, and/or approach to your daily work.