

Public Health Practice



Stories from the Field

The University of Texas School of Public Health

Student Practicum Experiences

Spring 2015 – International

Prevention diabetes safe kids clean water policy disaster response
cancer adolescent sexual health HIV/AIDS research obesity
alcohol empowerment vaccinations maternal & child health

The practicum experience is an integral part of the MPH and DrPH curricula. Public health students are provided with the opportunity to apply their classroom knowledge to real world settings through which they make a meaningful contribution to a public health organization.

Under the guidance of a community preceptor and faculty sponsor, students from all divisions gain a deeper understanding of public health practice, interact with professionals in the field, and expand their repertoire of professional skills.

This sixteenth-edition e-magazine showcases student practicum experiences throughout the Spring 2015 semester. (Prior semesters may be accessed through the e-book, a collection of student abstracts and e-magazines describing their experiences.)



Practicum Topics

Number of Students: 1

Continents/Regions	1
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Countries	1
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Student

International Practicum Experiences

SOUTH EAST ASIA

Cambodia: Global Health Outreach

Andrew Timboe

Global Health Outreach



Dr. Andrew Timboe @ Rural Cambodian Health Center (photo courtesy of Dr. Brian Rauch)

Patients Reached & Treated

- Over 4,500 of the poorest and often overlooked individuals in Cambodia were served with medical, dental, vision and public health education at outreach events!

Advice for Future Students

- “Planning is essential, Plans are worthless.”
–General Colin Powell
- Any successful international medical outreach will include extensive preparation before in-country placement.
- However **flexibility** is a key to success.

Global Health Outreach in Rural Cambodia

By: Andrew M Timboe, DO, MS

Our Global Health Outreach team was filled with diversity from the U.S. In all 18 medical team members from the U.S. partnered for 2 weeks with long-term NGO partners in Cambodia and governmental provincial health leaders. Physicians, dentists, and other health professionals partnered to provide services and public health education to the neediest populations in rural Cambodia.

I primarily worked with the primary care teams to assess health status, provide limited pharmaceutical interventions, and referrals to proper vaccination programs.

Preventive medicine education was provided to patients and Cambodian medical and dental students were trained to recognize common conditions and diseases.

Planning and Teamwork were essential!

Public Health Significance

The Public Health Essential Services (PHES) that most closely relate to this practicum experience would be:

- **Inform, educate and empower** people about health issues.
- **Mobilize** community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.

Over the two weeks of service, two separate groups of medical and dental students from Phnom Penh served as translators and we gave them firsthand

medical experience and education. Furthering their knowledge to care for their own people long-term. Patients were also given up-to-date preventative medical advice to empower them with healthy choices.

Partnering with the local NGO partner of World Vision International and Provincial Health Directors helped to ensure community support and mobilized effective health outreach events at 8 separate clinical sites over a 2 week period.



Malaria Statistics at Rural Health Center (photo courtesy of Dr. Paul Crawford)

For more information regarding
The University of Texas School of Public Health,
Office of Public Health Practice
and the practicum program, please visit:
<https://sph.uth.tmc.edu/practicum/>