Medical Education in Cuba: May 14-21, 2017
A unique educational exchange for
Residency Program Directors & colleagues specializing in Medical Education

Are you interested in finding residents who are uniquely qualified to care for underserved populations in the US? Would bilingual, interculturally competent staff provide better support for your patients and community? Are you curious about the remarkable successes of the Cuban health system?

Join Medical Education Cooperation with Cuba (MEDICC) for an insider’s view of the Cuban health care system which has attained excellent health outcomes despite scarce resources, providing a powerful example that wealth does not equal health. This program will offer a special focus on medical education and the 200+ US students and graduates of Cuba’s Latin American School of Medicine (ELAM).

Founded in 1999, ELAM offers full scholarships to young people from underserved communities in over 100 countries in exchange for a pledge to return to home to care for the neediest populations. The curriculum is scientifically similar to that of US medical schools, with added emphasis on family and preventive medicine and health equity. US graduates of ELAM have trained or are currently training at 45 different residency programs throughout the US, over 90% of them in primary care specialties.

“I know of no other medical school with an admissions policy that gives first priority to candidates who come from poor communities and know, first-hand, what it means to live without access to essential medical care. For once, if you are poor, female, or from an indigenous population, you have a distinct advantage.”
--WHO Director-General Dr. Margaret Chan, upon visiting ELAM
This exchange program will be designed according to participants’ interests, and will likely include:

- Visits to all campuses where US students are studying, including ELAM itself, Enrique Cabrera Teaching Hospital, and the Salvador Allende Teaching Hospital, to exchange with US medical students and Cuban faculty.
- Visit to a community polyclinic and neighborhood-level family doctor-nurse office
- Visit to a secondary- or tertiary-level teaching hospital
- Visit to community-level health centers, and / or community transformation projects
- Opportunities to interact with Cubans from all walks of life, and to learn about changes in Cuba since economic reforms began in 2011

Travel arrangements and costs:
In order to participate in this program, you will register for the exchange, sign a participation agreement, and send MEDICC a $500 non-refundable deposit to guarantee your place. Participants make their own domestic flight arrangements to Miami. The total cost for a one-week program varies depending on the number of participants, hotel and ground transportation costs, but will be around $4,500-$5,000. MEDICC partners with Marazul Charters, an experienced and licensed Cuba travel service provider, to arrange program, travel and accommodations.

Cost estimate includes:
- Pre-trip orientation, webinars and relevant readings
- Roundtrip airfare between Miami and Havana
- Lodging for seven nights, including breakfast, plus weekday lunches in privately-owned restaurants
- Full program of educational exchanges tailored to your expressed interests
- Ground transportation in Cuba for all program activities, including airport transfers
- A MEDICC representative and a specialized medical interpreter to facilitate your time in Cuba
- Health insurance covering your time in Cuba
- Cuban visa

The estimate does not include program deposit, travel to/from Miami, accommodations in Miami, or cash expenses in Cuba.

Registration:
If you are interested in participating, contact Christian Vigil, Gateways Program Assistant with any questions. The registration deadline is January 15, 2017. MEDICC’s exchanges fill quickly, so we recommend registering sooner rather than later! If you have questions, please email Christian at cvigil@mediccglobal.org or call (510) 350-3054.

Here is the link to the online registration form:
https://medicc.formstack.com/forms/mededprogdir_regform_may2017

MEDICC is the publisher of the peer-reviewed journal on Cuban health and medicine, MEDICC Review, and is the only U.S. organization specializing in Cuban health care (see www.medicc.org). MEDICC offers 20 years’ experience in tailoring educational exchanges in Cuba for US health professionals.

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