Join a Professional Research Exchange to Cuba with Medical Education Cooperation with Cuba (MEDICC) and the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine

Why visit Cuba? Do you want to...

- Learn about how an entire country has adopted population health and the biopsychosocial model? Then come to CUBA!
- Understand how a national health system has focused on prevention and community engagement? Then come to CUBA!
- Learn about longitudinally integrated community-based medical education? Then come to CUBA!
- Learn about Cuba’s medical school for non-Cubans (ELAM), where Americans studying are primarily underrepresented in medicine students and plan primary care careers in under-resourced and minority communities in the US? Then come to CUBA!
- Understand how a small, resource-poor country achieves outcomes comparable, and in some cases superior, to those of the US, at a fraction of the cost? Then come to CUBA!
Join MEDICC and STFM in exploring Cuba’s fascinating universal health system: its history, guiding principles and values, and approach to medical education and practice.

Immerse Yourself in the Cuban Health System
The program is designed specifically to meet the interests of STFM members. Travelers will participate in a full-time schedule of activities and have many opportunities to meet Cubans in their work and home settings.

The week will include a variety of site visits, exchanges, and activities such as:
- Visits to Consultorios (neighborhood family doctor-nurse offices),
- Policlínicos (multi-service secondary-level clinics), hospitals, sites related to maternal-infant and elder health, and a rural community in Havana’s outskirts to understand Cuba’s primary, secondary, and tertiary health care delivery sites;
- Exchanges with members of community organizations and cultural/arts projects promoting health for Cubans of all ages;
- Visits with local experts to historic and cultural landmarks in and near Havana; and much more!
- An expert from the Cuban National School of Public Health (ENSAP) will accompany the group, along with a specialized medical interpreter, a bilingual guide, and a dedicated driver.

Application, Cost, and Travel Details:
The exchange is 100% legal travel for US citizens, qualifying under the Professional Research category of the US Treasury Department’s (OFAC), General License for Travel to Cuba.

Participants will spend 6 nights in Havana (Sunday through Friday nights in hotel). To apply, contact Elizabeth Sayre to request a link to the online form. The application will open June 1, 2019 and close October 1, 2019.

All travelers’ passports must be valid through 7/25/2020. The exchange is limited to 30 participants; some space will be available for spouses/partners/accompanying travelers, who must participate in the scheduled program due to US travel regulations. Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. A $500 deposit is due upon acceptance to the program.

Travel and the required academic visa arrangements are made through Marazul, an agency specialized in Cuba travel. Cost is estimated at $3,400-$4,200 per person, based on the number of participants, final program, and room occupancy chosen. Estimate includes breakfast, most lunches, and international airfare from Miami; it does not include domestic airfare to Miami (US departure point), dinners, tips, and personal expenses.

Marazul will invoice participants for the final costs 4-6 weeks before departure, and, along with MEDICC, will guide participants on visa and flight arrangements. MEDICC will provide an orientation via webinar, and other useful information for travelers prior to the exchange.

Contact:
For the application link and more information, contact MEDICC Gateways Program Director Elizabeth Sayre at esayre@mediccglobal.org or call MEDICC Oakland at 510-350-3052. Questions to STFM may be directed to Rick Streiffer, MD, 205-348-6356, rhstreiffer@ua.edu.

Since 1997, MEDICC, a 501(c)3 organization, has worked to enhance cooperation among the US, Cuban and global health communities aimed at better health outcomes and equity. MEDICC publishes the MEDLINE-indexed MEDICC Review; organizes educational travel to Cuba for US health professionals; assists US students and graduates of the Latin American Medical School (ELAM) to return to US underserved communities, and organizes Community Partnerships for Health Equity to improve health care and access in US communities. See: www.medicc.org