Course Overview
SocMed courses immerse students in the study of social medicine and clinical medicine through personal connection and reflection, praxis, and partnership. In our annual Uganda course, thirty health professional students enroll each year, with half of the spaces filled by students from Ugandan schools, and the other half filled by international students from anywhere outside Uganda. Previous years have included participants from Canada, Germany, Italy, Lebanon, the Netherlands, Sweden, the U.S., and Zimbabwe. St. Mary’s Hospital Lacor in Gulu, Uganda (www.lacorhospital.org) hosts the course in collaboration with Gulu University Faculty of Medicine (GUFM). This upcoming course will run from January 5th – 30th, 2015.

Beyond the Biologic Basis of Disease merges unique pedagogical approaches including community engagement; classroom-based presentations and discussions; group reflection; theater, film, and other art forms; patient clerking and presentations; and bedside teaching. These approaches create an innovative and interactive learning environment in which students participate as both learners and teachers to advance the entire class’ understanding of the interactions between the biology of disease and the myriad social, cultural, economic, political, and historical factors that influence illness presentation and social experience of disease.

The course curriculum places considerable importance on building partnerships and encouraging students to reflect upon their personal experiences with power, privilege, race, class, and gender as central to effective partnership building in global health. In the spirit of praxis (a model of education that combines critical reflection with action) these components of the course give students the opportunity to discern their role in global health and social medicine through facilitated, in-depth conversations with core faculty and student colleagues.

Student evaluation is based upon active participation, a reflective essay on a narrative medicine experience, an exam incorporating both the social and clinical components of the course, and group work. Group work consists of developing an advocacy-related project that incorporates the themes of the class and provides the opportunity for continued partnership and sustained momentum after completion of the course.

Credit for away electives can usually be arranged with a student’s home institution. Please note that previous U.S. and Canadian students participating in the residency match have been able to attend the course without interfering in the match process by planning carefully ahead of time.

Course Goals
1. To provide a structured global health immersion experience for health professional students with dedicated supervision and teaching in clinical medicine and social medicine
2. To study issues related to health in Uganda with an emphasis on local and global context
3. To foster critical analysis of global health interventions in resource-poor settings
4. To facilitate the development of a clinical approach to disease and illness using a biosocial model through structured supervision and teaching
5. To build an understanding and skill set associated with health advocacy
6. To promote international solidarity and partnership in generating solutions to global health challenges facing societies throughout the world

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Course Curriculum

The course structure brings together teaching in both social medicine and clinical medicine. The social medicine component is divided into the following parts:

- **Part 1** – Social Determinants of Health: Accounting for Local and Global Context
- **Part 2** – Health Interventions: Paradigms of Charity, Development, and Social Justice
- **Part 3** – Core Issues in Social Medicine: Primary Health Care, Community Health Workers, Health and Human Rights, and Models of Payment
- **Part 4** – Making Social Medicine Visible: Writing, Narrative Medicine, Photography, Research, and Political Engagement

Ugandan physicians facilitate engagement with clinical topics through ward rounding and clerking on each of Lacor Hospital’s wards (Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Surgery, and Ob/Gyn).

Course Faculty

A group of course leaders from both the U.S. and Uganda with expertise in tropical medicine, sociology, medical anthropology, and public health make up the core faculty, including:

- **Phyllis Kisa, MB.Ch.B, FCS ECSA** – Ugandan board-certified surgeon affiliated with Lacor Hospital and Makerere University. Completed clinical fellowship in pediatric surgery at British Columbia Children’s Hospital and advises Global Partners in Anesthesia and Surgery.
- **Amy Finnegan, Ph.D, MALD** – U.S. sociologist focused on medical sociology and social change who serves as Chair of the Department of Justice and Peace Studies at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN
- **Michael Westerhaus, MD, MA** – U.S. internist who serves a medical director and primary care provider at the Center for International Health in St. Paul, MN and a member of University of Minnesota Global Health Faculty.
- Ugandan clinicians from Lacor Hospital serve as clinicians of the week for each ward

In addition, numerous experts involved with local health initiatives host community visits, deliver presentations, and facilitate conversations.

Cost

It is estimated that an average international students (students from outside of Uganda) cost for the 2015 course will be:

- **Airfare from U.S. (average from recent years):** $1800.00
- **Full Room/Board for 1 month:** $ 500.00
- **Course Fee:** $ 750.00
- **Total:** $3050.00

It is estimated that an average Ugandan student’s cost for the 2015 course will be:

- **Full Room/Board for 1 month (subsidized):** $ 50.00
- **Course Fee:** $ 25.00
- **Total:** $ 75.00

Please note that this total does not include costs associated with social events, vaccinations, spending money for gifts and other small personal expenses, and any additional travel in Uganda not associated with the course that you may wish to do. For example, previous course students have travelled together to Murchison Falls National Park during one of the free weekends.

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Beyond the Biologic Basis of Disease: The Social and Economic Causation of Illness

An Immersion Course in Social Medicine in Northern Uganda
Gulu, Uganda — January 5 to January 30, 2015

Limited financial aid may be available to cover some of the course fee for those with demonstrated financial need. If you feel you have sufficient need for these limited funds and would be unable to participate without financial support, please complete the required information on the ‘Scholarship’ section of the application.

More Information and Application Process

Further information and applications can be found on the SocMed website: www.socmedglobal.org. Please view short videos describing the course, publications related to the course, and advocacy videos created by previous students during the course by visiting the “Resources” tab on the website.

Applications are due June 30, 2014 and can be downloaded from the website. If you have questions, contact us at socmedglobal@gmail.com.

SocMed – The Organization

Founded in 2011, SocMed advocates for and implements global health curricula founded on the study of social medicine. In our work, SocMed promotes three P’s:

• Praxis – inspired by Paulo Freire, we believe that constant interplay between reflection and action generates critical analysis of the world and deepens our ability to effectively respond;
• Partnership – community-building amongst individuals with varied demographic backgrounds offers the most innovative and just means of moving towards health equity;
• Personal – who we are and where we come from matters deeply in health delivery. Critical self-awareness enhances our ability to undo harmful structural and societal factors of which we are all part.

By engaging students through careful examination of the social and economic contexts of health and immersing them in partnership with a diverse group of students from around the world, we aim to foster innovative leaders who are ready to tackle challenging health problems in communities around the world.