

Ray of Hope Foundation (ROHF) Global Health Elective -Kenya



Name and brief description of organization and program:

The Ray of Hope Foundation Kenya (ROHF) Global Health Elective. Ray of Hope is a small nonprofit started by Dr Teresa Gipson in 2003. Ray of Hope focuses on empowering communities through education and health- community health , school health, training community health workers and traditional birth attendants, global health electives, school sponsorships for at risk children, computer literacy, girls empowerment and water and sanitation for schools. We are registered in the USA as a 501c3 non profit and in Kenya as a Community Based Organization.

What type of clinical, research, and community development opportunities are available within your GH program?

Our Global Health Elective provides learners a 4-6 week rotation in Kenya. ROHF GH Elective participants will rotate in a wide variety of medical experiences-from local primary care clinics to public and private hospitals. They will also participate in community health and development projects in the rural community of Bware (outside of Migori, South Nyanza. Each rotation accommodates up to 6 clinical students and 4 community health students per 6 week cycle.

When is your program available to students? Feb- March 2013, May- June 2013, July-August 2013, September- October 2013

What time commitment do you expect from participants (weeks to months)?

4-6 weeks for clinical students on a GH elective rotation
1-2 weeks for targeted clinical projects such as dental/optometry camps

Does your program have fees, “tuition,” or housing costs? Yes

The activities fee for the ROHF GH Elective is \$2100 for 6 weeks. This DOES NOT include the cost of airfare (\$1600-\$2400, depending on the time of year). The activities fee covers all accommodations and meals , most internal transportation costs, materials/supplies/medicines for community projects and CME presentations and compensation to home stay families.

What types of learners are appropriate for your program?

Medical, PA, RN, NP, Midwifery students and residents from all specialties. In addition we are open to specialty teams for our 1-2 week targeted clinical interventions/programs- dental, engineering, pharmacy, public health and pre-professional students.

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What prior training is necessary for the program? (e.g. level of clinical/research skills)

Clinical students should have finished their didactics and completed at least one clinical rotation.
Residents should have completed at least one year of a residency program.

Rotation Objectives

- Shadow local healthcare providers and learn about the Kenyan medical system
- Learn about diagnosing and treating tropical illnesses such as Malaria, TB and HIV
- Learn about reproductive health issues in the developing world
- Develop communication skills using interpreters and other languages
- Learn how to reduce occupational risks of contracting infectious diseases
- Develop an awareness of the social determinants of health
- Learn how to work in a healthcare environment with limited diagnostic and therapeutic resources
- Experience another culture and improve ability to treat patients with diverse cultural backgrounds
- Become inspired and develop a service consciousness
- Work in interdisciplinary teams to learn about other medical providers
- Learn ways to combat burnout and compassion fatigue

What responsibilities and expectations do you have for participating learners?

1. Review resource binder with background information, tropical disease protocols and practice guidelines BEFORE presenting to the clinical sites.
2. Engage in ethical and responsible conduct at all times.
3. Arrive at assigned clinical rotations in a timely manner.
4. Refrain from diagnosing or treating patients without supervision.
5. Obtain full health and evacuation insurance.
6. Sign a Participation Agreement, waiving liability for the dangers of traveling in developing nations.

Are there language requirements? No; most Kenyans speak some English. English is compulsory beginning in the 4th grade of primary school. In the rural areas people primarily speak the language of their ethnic/ tribal group as well as Kiswahili. Interpreters are available as needed
It is our expectation that participants learn some basic Swahili to facilitate communication- this will be taught as part of the rotation orientation

Is a medical school/university associated with your program?

Pacific University PA Program
OHSU Department of Family Medicine

Is on-site mentorship available and who provides this supervision? Yes. A clinical preceptor will be available at each of the facilities. In addition, a clinical coordinator will assist the learners with in-country logistics. When available a teacher/facilitator from the US may accompany groups of learners to provide support for the first 1-2 weeks in country.

Does your organization have a religious affiliation? (If so, are volunteers required to participate?)

No

For more information please contact Dr Gipson at admin@rayofhope4all.org

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