

**GUIDELINES FOR SCHOLARLY CONCENTRATIONS**

**Purpose:**

To provide interested students an opportunity to receive an expanded and enriched learning and scholarly experience in a non-specialty-based area of emphasis while completing their 4-year medical curriculum.

**Program content and duration:**

Scholarly Concentrations will entail a defined combination of required, elective and selective student experiences during years 1-4 (e.g., coursework, Blue-Book credit, seminars, journal clubs, shadowing, etc), in addition to the scholarly project requirement (see below). The total time commitment will be approximately 5 months. A variety of configurations with regard to timing is possible. Greater flexibility will allow students to enter the concentration at multiple points.

**Scholarly project requirement:**

Scholarly Concentrations must require a scholarly project and product for successful completion. The product should be able to be peer reviewed and disseminated and should represent the culmination of the student's four year immersion in the field. It is highly recommended that the initial work on the project begin no later than the summer between years 1 and 2. It is expected that Scholarly Concentration Directors will hold these projects to a high standard of excellence.

**Student recognition:**

Successful completion of all Scholarly Concentration requirements will result in a designation of "Scholar in "*Concentration name*" in the commencement program. A certificate of completion will be issued at the time of graduation along with the student's UTMSH diploma. Participation will also be reflected in the student's "Medical Student Performance Evaluation."

**Student support:**

Limited program administrative and student support may be provided through the Office of the Dean. However, Scholarly Concentrations should be prepared to provide significant resources to support their program and their students' scholarly projects.

**Approval:**

Proposals for Scholarly Concentrations should first be submitted for review to the Scholarly Concentration Advisory Committee (using the standard "Scholarly Concentration Proposal Form") prior to submission to the Curriculum Committee for its approval.

## SCHOLARLY CONCENTRATION APPROVAL FORM

**Name:** Global Health Scholarly Concentration

**Directors:** Deepa Iyengar, MD, MPH and Omowunmi Aibana, MD, MPH

**Administrative coordinator:** Linh Trinh

**McGovern Global Health Website:** <https://med.uth.edu/globalhealth/>

### **Missions:**

- To add increased awareness of issues relating to global public health to the undergraduate medical curriculum.
- To provide students with the opportunity to experience supervised clinical service in underserved areas, locally and abroad.
- To enhance students' awareness of the unique challenges associated with healthcare delivery in resource poor settings and learn tools to mitigate such challenges.
- To prepare students to deal with patient populations from diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds and to cultivate increased awareness of the importance of providing structurally competent clinical care that addresses social determinants of health.
- To prepare future leaders in the area of global public health.

**Maximum number of students/year:** Variable

### **Student selection process:**

Students must be in good academic standing at the time of selection and remain in good standing throughout the four-year curriculum. Students will be selected through an application process and by the Directors with input from student leaders. Selection will be based on an application describing commitment to global health, long-term goals, and prior experience.

### **Timeline for student completion of concentration requirements:**

#### **First Year (MSI): March – students select and are accepted into the concentration**

Spring Semester

1. Attend 80% of dedicated monthly GHC lecture series (a combination of live and online power point slides)
  - a. **Lecture Topics**
    - i. Preparing for international elective
    - ii. Overview of Global Health and Development – Dr Aibana
    - iii. Public health metrics and socio-economic determinants of health – Dr Liaw
    - iv. Human Rights and Social Justice – Dr Villareal
    - v. Medical Volunteerism and Cultural competency
2. Attend all journal club meetings, which will focus on current issues in global public health including but not limited to emerging diseases, diagnosis and management,

original research, policy etc. Students will be expected to use journal club as one way of cultivating their own scholarly interests.

- a. Students are expected to lead and facilitate at least one journal club meeting during first and second years
    - i. Responsibilities include selecting article for approval in advance and identifying faculty member to serve as co-facilitator
- \* one excused absence from journal club permitted per year\*
3. Attend Guest Expert lecture series (1 per semester) - GHC will host lecture series open to the entire medical school community; experts will be invited to discuss topics relevant to global public health.
    - a. Topics to be determined
  4. Attend at least one meeting with GHC directors to discuss program, develop scholarly project ideas, and identify/assign mentors – this is a mandatory requirement.
  5. By the end of Spring semester, students should have identified some topics of interest for capstone project

Optional: overseas clinical selective during Spring Break (SIGHT or other organizations); all short-term trips can count for maximum of 25 hours towards clinical/public health hours requirements for the GHC.

**Summer (MS1-MS2):**

- Students can begin/continue work on their scholarly project either through summer research or clinical/public health experience as applicable.
- Students can also opt for separate clinical/public experience (locally or internationally) not related to a scholarly project
  - GHC Directors will provide list of potential opportunities
  - Students can independently identify sites for clinical/public experience but must obtain pre-approval from GHC directors
  - Clinical/public health experience during summer between MS1 and MS2 can count for maximum of 50 hours towards clinical/public health hours requirement for GHC.

**Second Year (MS2):**

Fall and Spring semesters

1. Attend 80% of dedicated monthly GHC lecture series
  - a. **Fall Semester**
    - i. Global Burden of Disease and Globalization - Communicable Diseases (at least 2 lectures)
      1. Overview of communicable diseases with focus on global burden of TB - Aibana
      2. Global Burden of HIV and STDs – Iyengar
      3. Global Health Delivery case study – Dr Aibana

**b. Spring Semester**

- i. Global Burden of Diseases – Non-communicable Diseases (at least 2 lectures)
  1. Overview of NCDs - Dr Aibana
  2. Global burden of DM and Metabolic Diseases – Dr Iyengar
2. Attend all journal club meetings.
  - a. Students are expected to lead and facilitate at least one journal club meeting during first and second years (see MS1 requirement above for details)  
\* one excused absence from journal club permitted per year\*
3. Attend GHC Guest Expert lecture series
4. Attend at least one meeting with GHC directors to discuss project progress and other issues related to the concentration
5. Participate in a clinical/public health experience: **minimum of 75 hours** over the course of MS2 year in any of the approved clinic sites
  - a. students can pursue alternative clinical experience but will require pre-approval from GHC Directors  
**\* students are responsible for making individual arrangements to attend the clinics and will be required to fill out verification form for clinical hours\***
6. To ensure students remain on track to complete required scholarly project, they must:
  - a. Schedule and attend at least one meeting per semester with mentor(s) to discuss and develop project ideas and update the GHC directors on their progress.
    - i. Students are responsible for ensuring mentorship agreement form is signed by student and mentor by September 30<sup>th</sup> of MS2 year; and submitted to administrative coordinator
  - b. Submit a scholarly project proposal with timeline of activities by February 28<sup>th</sup> of MS2 year.

Optional: overseas clinical selective during Spring Break (SIGHT or other organizations); all short-term trips can count for maximum of 25 hours towards clinical/public health hours requirements for the GHC.

**Interactive Cross-Training Learning Modules with SVYM** – Starting in 2022, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has halted global health related travel, the McGovern Medical School GHC will be instituting a new virtual global health lecture series in collaboration with SVYM, an institution based in India. This series is part of an effort to advance global health knowledge and skills amongst our learners by connecting them with the world virtually from our local classrooms.

- **MS1 and MS2 students in the concentration will be required to attend 90% of these virtual lectures.**
- **Full schedule and dates TBD**

### **Third Year (MS3):**

#### Fall and Spring semesters

1. Continue work on scholarly project
  - a. Submit brief progress report on scholarly project and revised timeline as appropriate by January 31st of MS3 year.
2. To ensure students remain on track to complete required scholarly project, they must:
  - a. Schedule and attend at least one meeting per semester with mentor(s) to discuss and develop project ideas and update the GHC directors on their progress.
3. Attend scheduled meetings at least twice a year (ideally one per each semester) with GHC directors to discuss project progress and other issues related to the concentration.

### **Fourth Year (MS4):**

#### Fall and Spring semesters

1. Attain **minimum of 50 hours** of clinical/public health experience in approved sites (locally or internationally) throughout the year
2. Schedule and attend at least two meetings per semester with mentor(s)
3. Finalize scholarly project
  - a. Required Deliverables prior to graduation
    - i. Abstract of completed project or work in progress must be submitted by early April of graduating year (exact date to be determined each year)
    - ii. Brief Powerpoint presentation summarizing capstone project
    - iii. Detailed written report of project (or manuscript prepared for submission)
  - b. Optional Deliverables
    - i. Oral/Poster Presentations at local and national conferences
    - ii. Preparation/submission of peer reviewed manuscript
4. Optional: Four week clinical elective local or international at approved sites (count for maximum of 50 hours towards clinical/public health hours requirement for GHC).

### **Concentration requirements (didactic and experiential):**

- GHC Lectures (at least 80%)
- Cross-Training Learning Modules with SVYM (at least 90%)
- Journal Clubs and invited lecture series
- Meetings with GHC directors – at least once per semester
- Meet with mentors – at least once per semester (MS2 to MS4)
- Submit scholarly project ideas/proposal with timeline by February 28<sup>th</sup> in MS2 and January 31<sup>st</sup> in MS3 years
- Minimum 125 hours of clinic/public health experience
- Scholarly project, which will culminate in a presentation and detailed written report/manuscript.

Scholarly projects\*

- a) indicate the types of faculty-mentored student scholarly projects available to students (e.g., basic research, clinical research, public health analysis, curriculum development, literature review, etc.): clinical research, literature review, public health project/analysis, program development
  - b) indicate the procedure used to review and evaluate the students scholarly projects and outcomes: Reviewed by GHC directors and students' mentors.
  - c) indicate strategies for scholarly product dissemination: Presentation at Annual Symposium/Poster Day
- \*a traditional student-authored manuscript describing his/her project and its outcome is required