DO NO HARM

Corey Han Kuk Kim, PT, MPT, BA Kin (Hon)
kh.corey88@gmail.com

Sustainable Involvement Overseas and Building a Lasting Connection
SHORT TERM GLOBAL HEALTH EXPERIENCES

“With the ever increasing trend of technological innovation, the ability to travel becomes seamless for those who have the privilege to do so. People are more aware of the world abroad; natural disasters, political discord, war and health disparity.

We now live in a day in age where people can choose to become involved in a global community, a network of organizations and people who are able to provide aid across the globe. Non-governmental organizations from developed countries will send aid workers, volunteers or paid contractors, providing services to marginalized and suffering populations. The length of stay ranges from days to years. It becomes an intermingling of people from several different countries which brings to attention differing attitudes, values and beliefs.

This complex environment can lead to either positive or negative interactions and outcomes.”
MOTIVATIONS

• Motivations to which I aspire:
  • Do I want to be a part of a global community?
  • Do I want to experience and learn from other cultures?
  • Do I want to help disadvantaged populations (including those in my own country of origin/ancestry) with fewer resources and access to healthcare
  • Do I want to learn about health, how it’s interpreted and the healthcare system of an international location?

• Motivations I can tolerate:
  • Do I want to travel around the world?
  • Do I want to broaden my life experience?
  • Will I see new diseases or face new medical problems?
  • Will I develop new skills or languages?
  • Do I wish to discover if global health should be part of my career?

• Motivations I’d rather suppress:
  • Do I want to go abroad because of the sensation, glamour and mystique of global health?
  • Do I want to go abroad because I know better (self-aggrandizement and/or superiority)?
  • Do I want to go abroad so I can get away from problems at home?

Adapted from Arya (2017), Preparing for International Health Experiences: A Practical Guide
COMPETENCIES

Adapted from Cassady et al (2014) Physiotherapy Beyond our Borders: Investigating Ideal Competencies for Canadian Physiotherapists Working in Resource Poor Countries
FUTURE IMPLICATIONS

Global Health Learning in Physical Therapy Curriculum

Barriers

• 2 year MPT – limited time constraints
• Curriculum change takes time and supporting research
• Limited availability and graduating requirements

Solutions

• Workshops championed by global health physical therapists
• Community-based placements working with low-income/marginalized populations
• International Placement Network between physical therapy schools
• Online Coursework Global Health Division

Possibilities

• CPA Global Health Specialization
• Combined program Public Health and Physical Therapy
• DPT 3 year program and Global Health into curriculum