



# INTERNATIONAL AMBASSADOR MENTORSHIP PROGRAM NEWSLETTER 2020



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## **PROGRAM UPDATE & GLOBAL EMERGENCY MEDICINE**

Emergency medicine is a developing, or often an unrecognized, medical specialty in many parts of the world. As a result, there is a need for emergency physicians eager to take on a variety of healthcare initiatives to aid its advancement and improve healthcare outcomes globally. The Global Emergency Medicine Students Leadership Program (GEMS LP), formerly known as the International Ambassador Mentorship Program (AMP), began in 2018 as a means of ushering in the next generation of global emergency medicine leaders. The program is a collaboration of the Emergency Medicine Residents' Association (EMRA) Medical Student Council and the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) International Emergency Medicine Section.

A certain number of medical students are selected each year to participate in this year-long leadership and mentorship program. The program provides students with a network of emergency physicians involved in global emergency medicine. Students participate in global EM projects that range from assisting ACEP International Ambassadors with their country reports to developing curriculum material for emergency training programs in other countries. Students also lead and engage in thought-provoking discussions on various topics within international emergency medicine through a monthly journal and book club. Journal topics include discussions on the ethical considerations in global health and the importance of emergency medicine in low resource settings. Book club discussions were based on "An Introduction to Global Health Delivery" by Joia Mukherjee.

The program has grown in size every year from 8 to 11 and now 18 students. We are excited by the increasing interest in the program as well as the bright future for global emergency medicine!



## ***GEM STUDENTS PROJECTS & PLANS 2019-2020***

### **GLOBAL HEALTH PROJECT**

The project focused on exploring the benefits and barriers of point-of-care ultrasound training in resource-limited settings. The goal is to create a formal emergency ultrasound training curriculum that could be used in Cambodia and other low- or middle-income countries. I have also been interviewing physicians who have delivered ultrasound education in different settings to gather information regarding their experience, the challenges they faced, and the lessons they learned. Hopefully, when the public health conditions become safer, I plan to travel with Dr. Venezia to Cambodia to implement this project.

### **FUTURE GLOBAL HEALTH PLANS**

After residency, I hope to pursue a fellowship that combines my academic interests in global health and emergency ultrasound. My experience during this program reaffirmed my passion for global health and ignited a new passion – bedside ultrasound. It would be incredible if I could eventually advance my ultrasound skills in order to better diagnose and care for individuals in resource-limited settings globally.



**Dania Abu-Jubara, MS-3**

**Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine**

**Mentor: Donna Venezia, MD**

**Country: Cambodia**



### **GLOBAL HEALTH PROJECT**

The aim of my project was to assess the state of EMS in Belize and make a compelling argument to the national government on the need for a nationwide EMS. Due to COVID, the project was put on hold. Up to that point I began initial discussions with a member of the Belize Emergency Response Team in order to gain insight into the current state of EMS in Belize. Additionally, I spent time reviewing literature on EMS in other low- and middle-income countries to gain perspective on different EMS systems, reasons why EMS is so important, and potential barriers in implementation of EMS.

### **FUTURE GLOBAL HEALTH PLANS**

I hope to continue working with Dr. Bruce on this project in Belize once situations improve with COVID. Additionally, I enjoyed my time in AMP, so I hope to stay involved and aid the next cohort of participants in their global health journey. Long term I hope to pursue a global health fellowship to equip myself with the skills necessary to appropriately and effectively support the growth of EM and healthcare internationally.

**Jerry Oommen, MS-3**

**Michigan State University College of  
Osteopathic Medicine**

**Mentor: Mark Bruce, DO**

**Country: Belize**



### GLOBAL HEALTH PROJECT

Given my interests in medical education, my mentor, Dr. Kristiana Kaufmann, helped me plan a project that involved expanding the curriculum for the current Lao residency program. When COVID-19 began to impact Southeast Asia, our travel plans were canceled and the residency program paused curriculum expansion efforts to focus on their pandemic response. However, we pivoted the project to create resources that could be used at a later date. This included both a guide to utilizing Free Open-Access Medical Education (FOAMed) in their curriculum, as well as a train-the-trainer module in Problem-Based Learning (PBL) as a teaching modality.

### FUTURE GLOBAL HEALTH PLANS

My mentor was instrumental in helping me navigate a future in global EM. Through our discussions about partnership, I have a better appreciation for reciprocal learning opportunities and the importance of local project ownership. In the future, I hope to be involved in these educational partnerships, and continue working with EM leaders from around the world.



**Kaley Waring, MS-3**

**University of California San Diego**

**Mentor: Kristiana Kaufmann, MD, MPH**

**Country: Lao PDR**



**Kareem Eid, MS-3**

**University of Miami Miller School of Medicine**

**Mentor: Elizabeth DeVos MD, MPH, FACEP**

**Country: Paraguay**

### GLOBAL HEALTH PROJECT

AMP has been an incredible experience and I was very fortunate to be a part of it this year. Our project involved helping establish a pediatric emergency medicine ultrasound training module in Paraguay. My role involved writing cases to be used in simulation training for residents. Unfortunately, due to the COVID pandemic, implementation of the program was postponed.

### FUTURE GLOBAL HEALTH PLANS

As part of my career, I would cherish the opportunity to play a role in providing care in a global setting. I want to care for those who are in the midst of crisis.



### GLOBAL HEALTH PROJECT

My project entailed discussion of some of the problems that can occur with NGO's and the issues that the country and some patients may face with an NGO and the after-effects when the groups pull out of the country. My country of focus is Haiti. Furthermore, I will work to compare the sustainability of NGO's in Haiti with Sierra Leone wherein the NGO Wellbody Alliance has been a successful NGO in that country since 2006. Furthermore, I will search for recommendations suggested by leaders and experts regarding ways to make international medicine and the collaboration with NGOs even more sustainable to allow for capacity building in the country that is being supported.

### FUTURE GLOBAL HEALTH PLANS

My goal is to be a sustainable physician working in the US and overseas, specifically in Haiti.



**Kimberly Herard, MS-4**  
**Florida Atlantic University**  
**Mentor: Nicole Piela, MD**  
**Country: Poland**



### GLOBAL HEALTH PROJECT

I was fortunate to work with Dr. Patiño on a variety of projects throughout my year as a mentee. We worked on a manuscript describing the state of emergency departments in Quito, Ecuador that has been submitted to a journal. Additionally, I became involved in the ACEP Ambassador Conference planning committee and helped to organize the 2020 Ambassador Conference. I look forward to staying involved with the ACEP International section in the future!

### FUTURE GLOBAL HEALTH PLANS

I anticipate that I will combine my MD and MBA to work within the development and policy space in Global EM. I hope to continue collaborating with organizations and physicians in Latin America.

**Michaela Banks, MS-4**  
**University of Virginia**  
**Mentor: Andrés Patiño, MD**  
**Country: Ecuador**



### GLOBAL HEALTH PROJECT

Laypeople are critical for providing care in areas where formal EMS programs may face challenges, like in the mountainous areas of northern Thailand. With direction from my mentor Dr. Wirachin Hoon, we sought to create a training program for a rural hill tribe that lives in this area by reviewing existing layperson trauma training programs, including the WHO BEC program. We learned about best practices for a training program in this type of community, including incorporating hands-on learning with locally available materials, having community leaders join the course, and providing participants with first aid materials. From here, we hope to work with a vocational school in the Thai Hill community to develop and implement a curriculum.

### FUTURE GLOBAL HEALTH PLANS

I plan to apply to EM residencies this year and continue participating in Global EM in my future career. From my project, I learned the value of practical EM skills in hard-to-access communities globally, and the importance of training lay people as a means of combating issues pertaining to healthcare access.



**Neha Sikka, MS-3**

**Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

**Mentor: Wirachin Hoonpongsimanont, MD**

**Country: Thailand**



### GLOBAL HEALTH PROJECT

My original project was to work with local EMS agencies in India, possibly surveying their providers after every patient pickup to study current Door-to-ER times and possible ways to improve that. Unfortunately, things didn't go as we originally planned, so I shifted gears. I ultimately established contact with one of the largest government-operated hospitals in South India and helped them work on a new triage protocol that will eventually be used in government-operated hospitals across the state.

### FUTURE GLOBAL HEALTH PLANS

I have been chosen to lead SAEM's newly formed GEMA Global Engagement Committee as the Medical Student Co-Chair. In this position I plan to continue my work in Global EM and engage our global partners towards our ultimate goal of making access to emergency care an essential, in every corner of the world.

**Sriram Venkatesan**

**Sri Ramachandra Medical College, India**

**Mentor: Arun Nandi, MD, FRCS, FACEP**

**Country: India**



## **GEM STUDENTS who have not been featured:**

Student	Medial School	Mentor	Country
Karra Manier	Howard University College of Medicine	Gayle Galletta, MD	Norway
Nivedita Poola	Boston University School of Medicine	Stacey Chamberlain, MD, MPH	Uganda
Shelby Wood	St. George's University School of Medicine	Jesica Bravo, MD	Mexico

## **AMP GLOBAL EMERGENCY MEDICINE STUDENTS 2019 - 2020**



### **AMBASSADOR MENTORSHIP PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

AMP Director and ACEP Ambassador Program Co-Chair

**Andres Patiño, MD**

ACEP International Section Chair and Ambassador Program Co-Chair

**Elizabeth Devos, MD, MPH**

AMP Resident Co-Chair

**Ashley Pickering, MD**

#### **Application Information:**

[www.EMRA.org/students/advising-resources/intl-amb-mentorship/](http://www.EMRA.org/students/advising-resources/intl-amb-mentorship/)

#### **Program Information:**

[www.ACEP.org/intl/newsroom/2020-june/ambassador-mentorship-program/](http://www.ACEP.org/intl/newsroom/2020-june/ambassador-mentorship-program/)