



THE ROUGH GUIDE TO Getting Global Health Teaching in *your* curriculum

what?

Global health is a broad subject that looks at the local, national and international determinants of health and healthcare delivery.

Global Health assesses the wider influences of health such as poverty, debt, globalisation, healthcare financing, human rights, famine, environment, violent conflict and the movement of populations. It draws from a number of disciplines including politics, economics, sociology, demography, anthropology, epidemiology and philosophy.

why?

Students who have studied global health are better equipped to understand root causes in addition to the clinical manifestations of ill health.

Global health teaching will also help to foster a generation of health professionals who are committed to health for all, as enshrined at the International Conference on Primary Health Care, Alma-Ata, in 1978. We see health professionals as having a commitment not only to their patients but also to the health of society as a whole. The growing number of health professionals who are committed to global health equity can form a powerful group of advocates for health for all.

Globalisation is changing the structure of societies and the way in which decisions about health are taken. Many societies are becoming more multicultural, and global health teaching helps medical students to understand both the reasons for increased population movement and the social, economic and cultural factors underlying patients' ill health.

Decisions about health and healthcare are also increasingly influenced through global trade agreements such as TRIPS and GATS, and it is important for health professionals to understand the influence of such global policies on their work.

Globalisation means that medical students and health professionals are increasingly likely to work outside their own countries. Global health helps them to understand the different societies and health systems where they may work, and thus adapt better and more quickly to their new surroundings.

where?

If you feel that global health teaching is missing from you medical curriculum... then change it!

There are several ways that it can be included:

- **Core curriculum** – an awareness of the relevance of global health to all medical students is being increasingly recognised
- **SSMs/SSCs** and
- **Intercalated BSc** – allowing students to extend their interest



GLOBAL HEALTH • LOCAL ISSUE

global health

how?

Just follow these simple steps...

1. Research!
 - Find out what's there now (see Uni website, course handbook, ask mates...)
2. Make contacts –
 - Why do it all yourself? ...get other students involved!
 - Use your Med. Soc and try to the issue on the agenda for staff-student liaison meetings
 - Use your BMA rep... this is exactly the sort of thing that they're there for! And the BMA MSC (Medical Students Committee) has made a commitment to working towards more global health teaching... see M21C (Resources, below!)
 - If you can get lecturers keen, they can be really helpful – an insiders knowledge of the medical school and its workings can be invaluable... and you'll probably find lots of them are keen.
3. Get educated – use the resources below, and contact Rob or Tom at globalhealth@medsin.org
4. Decide what you want to change! Core? SSM/SSC? BSc? All of them!?
5. Make a plan!
 - Sounds simple, but if you plan you're far more likely to be effective!
 - Think about: who to approach, how, when, etc...

...and DO IT!

resources!

- www.medsin.org/globalhealth - the website is a little old... but will be updated soon! Still some useful resources though...
- www.almamata.net is a network of global health graduates, and the website is a great source of information, contacts, news and more...
- For more information on the need for international health education for medical students, see the article *Bringing global issues to medical teaching* (available at: <http://www.ihmec.ucl.ac.uk/resources/lancetarticle.pdf>) and editorial *Educating doctors for world health* (from: <http://www.ihmec.ucl.ac.uk/resources/lanceteditorial.pdf>) from *The Lancet*.
- Medact has done a massive amount of work in the area of global health education, including creating a great curriculum *Global Health Studies* – it's both a useful resource to take to academics and a good way to start to learn about the issues... download it free from: http://medact.org/pub_curriculum.php
- M21C – *Medicine in the 21st Century*
 - Produced by the BMA MSC, outlining their policies on medical education, including: *“Students should have the opportunity to learn about factors influencing health and healthcare in today's global society, including political, socioeconomic, cultural and religious factors.”*
 - Download it from: <http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/content/m21c>
- The two International Health BSc courses currently running in the UK also both have a wealth of useful information, as well as potential contacts on their websites:
 - IHMEC (International Health and Medical Education Centre) at UCL: <http://www.ihmec.ucl.ac.uk/>
 - Leeds Nuffield Institute for Health: http://www.nuffield.leeds.ac.uk/content/teaching/bsc_int_health.asp

This is just a selection of the resources available... but should be a good start!

In order to develop the resource database, please CC: any emails where you think that the resource could be useful to others to globalhealth@medsin.org! Thanks!

Feel free to get in touch! Email Rob and Tom at globalhealth@medsin.org for advice, tips and encouragement!
Don't forget that people have been there before so great help is always at hand.