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Swaziland Global Health Elective

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Why Global Health? Why Swaziland?

- Experience practicing medicine in a resource-limited setting
- Insight in to how cultural norms affect medical practice
- Improve cultural competency
- Understand health system and resources available in other countries



Background/Preparation

- Swaziland 2015 HIV Guidelines
- Hospital Care for Children
- WHO IMCI and ETAT
- Global Health Didactics
- Read about Swaziland culture
- Objectives & goals for the rotation:
 - Experience practicing medicine in resource-limited setting
 - Learn about medical conditions that are less common in the United States
 - Understanding cultural impact on healthcare



HIV/AIDS

- Swaziland has the highest HIV prevalence in the world
- Baylor COE is the largest antiretroviral provider for children in Swaziland
- Programs target prevention and treatment
- Baylor Clinic Mother Baby Pair Program – goal of reducing maternal-child transmission
- Baylor Clinic Teen Club
- Challenge Clinic
- Outreach at community clinics



Tuberculosis

- Highest incidence of tuberculosis in the world
- Susceptibility among HIV-infected patients
- TB clinic facility is the Ministry of Health's primary provider for pediatric TB diagnosis and treatment

Psycho-Social Complications

- Unique psycho-social barriers for patients living with HIV
- Social stigma affects seeking treatment and compliance
- Other barriers to care include transportation to clinic, financial constraints
- Many children with HIV/AIDs are orphaned and cared for by family members who are not their parents
- Inadequate systems for dealing with child physical abuse and sexual assault

Elective Experience

- Baylor-Swaziland Center of Excellence (COE)
- I worked primarily in the Mbabane Clinic in a family-centered care environment.
- Multiple programs aimed at increased adherence and decreased transmission of HIV:
 - Mother/Baby Pair program and early infant diagnosis
 - Maternal health and PMTCT
 - Adolescent care & Teen Club
- Provided TB screening and treatment
- Hospital rounds and satellite clinics
- Mbabane Government Hospital
- Hlatikhulu
- Bulembu
- Manzini
- Analysis of clinic data to assess achievement of UNAIDs 90-90-90 goals

Reflection/Future Directions



- Interest in continuing global health work as a fellow and in my career.
- Research and education on child abuse in international and refugee populations
- Education/training for sexual abuse evaluation in resource-limited settings