There is a growing awareness of the need to have health care organizations at risk. Students' school's reputation, untrained and ill-prepared. Countries, and have clinical experiences for which they are often finding opportunities to travel abroad, especially to developing nations, as a patient-visitor in a hospital, performing clerical work, or other volunteer opportunities in health care are often restricted to serving as a patient-visitor in a hospital, performing clerical work, or other volunteer opportunities in health care.

Every year pre-health and pre-clinical health professional students find opportunities to travel abroad, especially to developing countries, and have clinical experiences for which they are often untrained and ill-prepared.

These are real stories, with real potential dangers, as untrained pre-med and pre-health students travel to other countries as volunteers and provide healthcare services.

The potential for negative outcomes is great when pre-health students perform tasks as a volunteer that they are not formally trained to do. Untrained volunteers can impact:

- Patient safety
- Student safety
- Community safety, coherence, and functioning
- Organizational efficiency
- Student school's reputation

The Health Careers Center became aware of what students were doing abroad by reading about their activities in journal assignments and personal statements. These types of activities had been going on for years, and no one seemed to be asking questions about their appropriateness.

The HCC began investigating the need for a training tool to raise awareness and provide students with the knowledge and skills to assure a safe and appropriate global experience.

The HCC approached the Learning Abroad Center to explore the issue further. On March 15, 2010, they jointly hosted a special meeting with leaders from the Academic Health Center to investigate how to create or identify appropriate and relevant health-related global opportunities for students, and how to prepare students for those opportunities.

Representatives attended from Pharmacy, Public Health, Nursing, Medicine, IT, CLA, Health, and CBS. From that meeting came the unified recognition that we need to help students know and respect boundaries while taking part in any global experiences.

The group came up with a set of recommendations for the UMTC campus, and believe we need to:

- Include professional ethics and professionalism as we work with students.
- Assist student in understanding which activities are appropriate, and what they should not do and why.
- Provide training for students before they participate in a health-related experience abroad.

From this meeting, the HCC and LAC recognized the need for guiding principles or ethical standards. LAC raised the issue with the Forum on Education Abroad. They agreed, and will host a national conversation on the issue in Boston on April 5-8, 2011.

The current plan is for the workshop to include information on:

- Why the workshop was created
- Why having a global experience is important for students interested in health careers
- Finding the right global health experience
- Meeting academic requirements
- Understanding boundaries: professional, ethical, and cultural
- Making the most of a global experience
- Applying what they have learned when they return home

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