

Students for Medical Missions (SMMM)

An organization that promotes global health awareness and education through providing opportunities for mission trips and supporting other missions



What We Do

- ◆ MISSION TRIPS!!!
- ◆ Packing Parties
- ◆ Volunteering at the medical warehouse
- ◆ Fundraising:
 - ◆ Salsa Night (October)
 - ◆ Salsa Dance Lesson
 - ◆ MedBall (February usually)
 - ◆ “Medical school prom”
 - ◆ Dodgeball Tournament (Spring Semester)
 - ◆ Teams pay to play
 - ◆ Global Healthcare Symposium (Spring)
 - ◆ Physicians and students in attendance donate money towards future medical mission trips



Mission Trips

- ◆ Led by Dr. Richard Paat, MD – he is literally the best
 - ◆ Local Internal Medicine doc who graduated from UTCOM back in the 80s
- ◆ Spring Break (end of February, early March)
 - ◆ La Esperanza, Honduras (1 week, \$1100)
- ◆ Summer
 - ◆ Tugbong, Philippines (2 weeks) – Last week of June, first week of July (\$2200)
 - ◆ San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala (1 week \$1100) – Last week of July



Packing and Preparation

- ◆ Packing Parties
 - ◆ Counting and sorting medical supplies, toiletries, stuffed animals, medicines
 - ◆ Packing 40-50 lb duffel bags
- ◆ Dr. Paat's parents' house
 - ◆ Food – Dr Paat always makes sure to feed us
- ◆ Sunday afternoons, 1-5 p.m. in the weeks leading up to the trip



Honduras:

February 27 – March 6, 2016





History of Our Presence in Honduras

- ◆ In 2001, we started bringing medical teams to the rural mountain town of La Esperanza
- ◆ The Lions Club of La Esperanza coordinates sites
- ◆ Each day of the mission, we serve a different village or community



The Team





Assembly line of packing the duffels each morning





Loading the bus with duffels each morning before clinic

A Day at the Clinic

- ◆ Travel by bus to the community for the day
- ◆ Intake area done by The Lions Club members and volunteers
- ◆ M1s and M2s work with an M3 or M4 and one physician
 - ◆ Patient interviews (History of Present Illness, Physical Exam, etc)
- ◆ Other Students (nursing, pharmacy, volunteers)
 - ◆ Triage
 - ◆ Pharmacy
- ◆ 300-400 patients seen per day**



Water Filters

Distributing water filters to community members

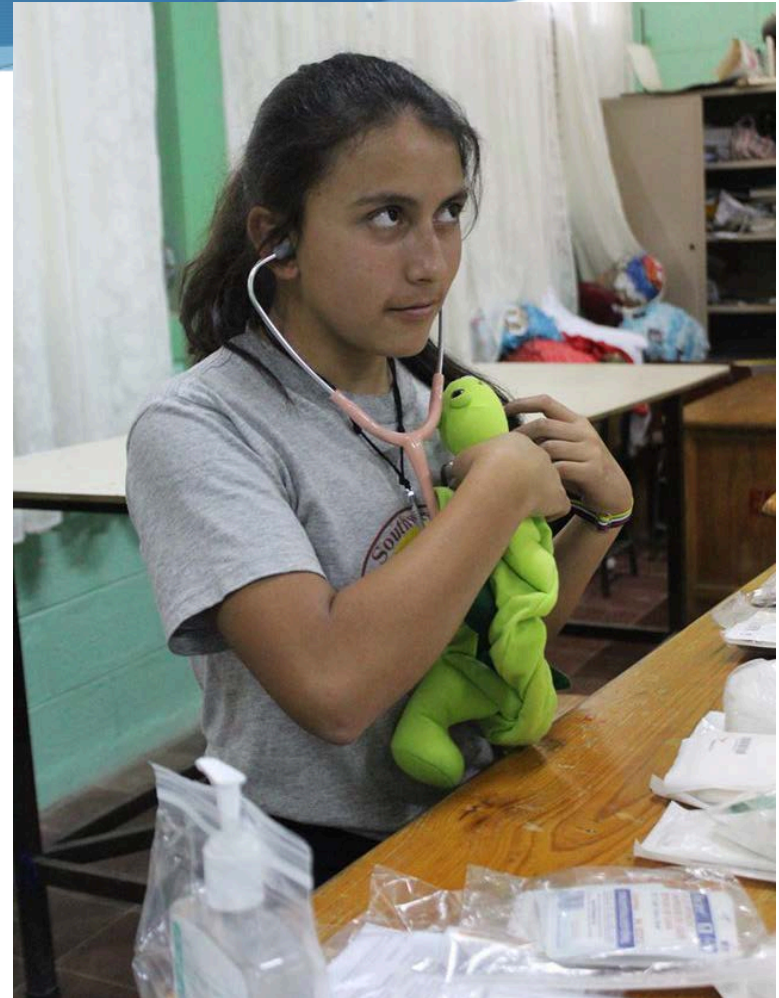


Health Promoters

Training community members on various health-related topics



Translators (ie, you don't need to know Spanish to go on these trips!)



Copán Mayan Ruins



Guatemala

- ◆ Same as Honduras in terms of “a typical day at the clinic”, but fewer patients seen each day
- ◆ More laid back but still just as fun!



Other Trips

- ◆ Dr. Paat also goes on other trips throughout the year with a medical team of professionals (ie, no students)
- ◆ But, SMM and other students still help to prepare for these trips!
- ◆ Just for example, Dr. Paat left for Haiti on 10/13/16 after 2 days of preparation with the help of over 60 volunteers and many donations
 - ◆ Dr. Paat has been going down to Haiti regularly since the earthquake of 2008
 - ◆ Hurricane Matthew has devastated Haiti this year, and the town that Dr. Paat goes to every year has been demolished by the hurricane
 - ◆ Check us out on the news:
 - ◆ http://www.wtol.com/story/33369768/team-of-local-doctors-headed-to-haiti#.V_57tvkc_d8.facebook
 - ◆ <http://www.13abc.com/content/news/Local-doctors-pack-dozens-of-bags-for-relief-trip-to-Haiti-396886981.html>
- ◆ Another example: Dr. Paat went to Nepal last year after the earthquake hit there



How do you afford medical mission trips?



Do students ever do medical mission work outside of the opportunities offered through UTCOM organizations?



How risky/dangerous is it to participate in medical mission work?



One day later



Advice from current medical residents

- ◆ Mission work is NOT required!
- ◆ However, it does give you something to talk about during residency interviews, *especially if you are passionate about it*
 - ◆ This goes for anything you do in medical school/in your graduate schooling
- ◆ *“I felt like my personality shone through the most when I was talking about medical missions because I could articulate my experiences in an excited and thoughtful way without having to think about it.”* –Kelsey Baron M.D., prior SMM President
- ◆ *“I think that some form of mission work (foreign or domestic) can be a really transformative experience that can solidify a lot of questions like, ‘Why do I want to be a doctor?’ or even re-inspire you to keep working hard in the classroom.”* – Tony Canestraro M.D., previous SMM member

Questions, Comments, or Concerns?

- ◆ Feel free to contact me:
 - ◆ Alisha.Sangal@rockets.utoledo.edu
 - ◆ Current SMM President (2016-2017)
- ◆ Contact Dr. Rich Paat
 - ◆ richpaat@gmail.com
 - ◆ Leader of the medical mission trips through SMM