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Global Health Service Learning in Medical Undergraduate Programs

Abstract:

As medical school programs evolve with the changing world, curriculums are being designed to promote social accountability and responsibility. The University of British Columbia (UBC) Global Health Initiative was launched 10 years ago to provide a platform for medical students to develop knowledge and skills in global health and engage in community-based partnerships. These partnerships have included projects in low resource communities outside of Canada as well as local communities such as the refugee population in Vancouver. This initiative has contributed to the achievement of core medical program competencies with significant focus on advocacy, scholarship, leadership, communication & collaboration, and professionalism. There is strong evidence that students engaging in service learning programs with low resource or underserved populations gain better skills in working with multicultural populations, communication, resource utilization, diagnostic skills, and health advocacy. The Global Health Initiative conducted a 10 year review study to determine the impact of participating in a global health project and how it has influence on working with underserved populations, research skills, choice or residency or further study, and location of practice. The results of this study will be shared as well as how this initiative has influenced the core medical curriculum at UBC.