



The BIDMC-Botswana Program

A Botswana-Harvard Partnership initiative at Scottish Livingstone Hospital

Medicine Clinical Elective Rotation

Elective Goals

This elective provides an opportunity for internal medicine residents (as well as family medicine residents and infectious disease fellows) to work in a resource-limited setting and provide medical care to a population challenged by ongoing HIV and TB epidemics as well as a rising burden of non-communicable diseases. The elective's goals are to learn how to deliver quality care in a resource-limited setting, to enrich the medical training and experience of participating residents, district healthcare staff and local medical trainees, to fortify the clinician-educator role of participating residents, to encourage career paths in global health, and to provide physician support for Scottish Livingstone Hospital in Botswana.

Program Background

Launched in 2011, the BIDMC-Botswana program is a collaboration between the Botswana Harvard AIDS Institute Partnership (BHP), Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC), Boston and Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), Portland. The initiative was created to support healthcare capacity building through clinical care, medical education, quality improvement and research in the Kweneng East district, Botswana.

Scottish Livingstone Hospital

Scottish Livingstone Hospital (SLH) is a government-run district hospital located in the village of Molepolole, 60 km from the Botswana's capital city, Gaborone. The hospital serves as the secondary referral center for Molepolole (population 70,000) and the surrounding Kweneng East district (population 190,000) where HIV prevalence is 17.5 %. Beyond HIV and AIDS-related complications, commonly encountered medical conditions include TB and chronic diseases (e.g. hypertension, diabetes, heart failure, renal insufficiency, stroke, autoimmune, endocrine and neoplastic disorders). The hospital provides both inpatient and outpatient care in internal medicine, pediatrics, OB/GYN, general surgery, critical care, ophthalmology, and outpatient sexual and reproductive health, dentistry and psychiatry. Diagnostic capabilities include plain x-rays,

ultrasound, and a wide range of laboratory capabilities including microbiology, chemistry and hematology. Available allied services include physiotherapy, occupational therapy, psychology and social work.



Scottish Livingstone Hospital

Program Activities

SLH is relatively well resourced compared to other sub-Saharan hospitals, nevertheless, critical gaps in knowledge, systems efficiency, and resource utilization remain. The BIDMC-Botswana Program at SLH was created to address these gaps. Initially focused on adult internal medicine, the program expanded to obstetrics and gynecology in 2016 with the addition of a full time BIDMC faculty OBGYN specialist. In collaboration with local partners, the program at SLH provides clinical training to university of Botswana medical students, interns and residents as well as local medical officers, nurses and other healthcare staff. The program also promotes systems/process improvement through quality improvement and research within the hospital and surrounding district. In addition, the program regularly provides opportunities for rotating U.S. residents and fellows to participate in clinical, educational, quality improvement and research efforts.

Program Oversight

Dr.Tomer Barak, a board-certified Internal Medicine physician, is the in-country program director and on-site BIDMC internal medicine faculty clinical mentor. Since July 2015, Global Health fellows from BIDMC have provided additional internal medicine attending-level clinical oversight. Dr. Rebecca Luckett is the on-site BIDMC faculty OBGYN program director. Dr. Barak is supported by Drs. Jonathan Crocker (BIDMC) and Melissa Nyendak (OHSU) who direct their respective Internal

Medicine residency Global Health Programs in the US. Dr. Luckett is supported by BIDMC OBGYN Global Health Program director Dr. Jennifer Scott. BHP affiliated researchers Drs Roger Shapiro, Rebecca Zash, Shahin Lockman, Chris Rowley and Neo Tapela are involved in oversight of research and quality improvement projects at SLH. In addition, the program works closely with the hospital superintendent, district health management team and BHP leadership.

Resident Role and Experience

Qualifying residents spend 4 or more weeks working at SLH and are integrated into the daily routine of the hospital serving primarily as clinician-educators on the adult in-patient wards where they work alongside hospital medical officers and nurses, as well as medical interns and students from the University of Botswana Faculty of Medicine. Residents also have opportunities to see ambulatory patients in the post-discharge and specialist consultation clinic. Commonly encountered conditions in both inpatient and outpatient settings include chronic medical diseases like heart failure, hypertension, renal failure, infectious diseases such as TB, complications of HIV infection, and a broad range of other medical problems. The on-site BIDMC-affiliated attending physician and/or attending-level global health clinical fellow supervise all clinical activities during the rotations.

The elective provides a valuable opportunity to develop residents' teaching skills and gain clinician educator experience. Participating residents lead formal educational sessions as well as teach on complex cases and provide close clinical mentorship to local medical students and interns. In addition residents are tasked with helping to develop educational materials including talks and case-reports as well contribute to several longitudinal processes and quality improvement projects ongoing at the hospital.

Rotation Logistics

Housing/Transportation: Housing (leased by BIDMC program) in Gaborone is available to rotating residents. Transportation is provided by the BIDMC-Botswana program.

Preparation/Orientation: Residents will be provided with detailed orientation materials upon acceptance to the program. The program's dedicated in-country administrator provides administrative support during the pre-travel period as well as throughout residents' in-country stay.

Eligibility: Eligible candidates for the program are residents who are comfortable working in a developing world setting, able to work with a multi-disciplinary team and lead inpatient rounds, and who possess cultural sensitivity and humility. In recent years, residents from over 15 residency programs across the US have participated in this elective. Family Medicine residents and Infectious Disease fellows are also welcomed to apply for this rotation.

Applications and Permissions

Application materials:

- Cover letter (short description of your experience, interests, goals and reasons for applying to this rotation).
- Current CV
- Statement of support from residency/fellowship program director
- Dates of interest
- Malpractice coverage

Malpractice Coverage:

Prior to departure, applicants will be required to provide proof of malpractice coverage during the time of intended work at SLH. This is not provided by the BIDMC Global Health program. If your current institutional policy does not provide coverage for rotations outside of your home institution, you will need additional coverage. Previous residents were able to obtain this coverage at low cost from several providers listed here:

- “*Medical Protection Society*” (<http://www.medicalprotection.org>)
- “*International Helpers (Guernsey) Trust*” (http://www.aaintl.com/overseas_liability.cfm)

Contacts:

Applicants should send materials and contact Dr. Jonathan Crocker (jcrocker@bidmc.harvard.edu) and Dr. Tomer Barak (tbarak@bidmc.harvard.edu) with questions.

Additional information is available at:

<http://www.bidmc.org/MedicalEducation/Departments/Medicine/ResidencyinInternalMedicine/GlobalHealth/SiteLocations/Botswana.aspx>