



Beth Israel Deaconess
Medical Center



HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL
TEACHING HOSPITAL



The Botswana Global Health 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 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 contribute to the healthcare of patients in Scottish Livingstone Hospital and the surrounding district.

Program Background

Launched in 2011, the Botswana Global Health Program is a collaboration between the Botswana Harvard AIDS Institute Partnership (BHP), Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC), and Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU). 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 adult

HIV prevalence is 19 %. 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, as

well as outpatient sexual and reproductive health, dentistry, and psychiatry. Diagnostic capabilities include plain x-rays, ultrasound, and a wide range of laboratory capabilities such as microbiology, chemistry, and hematology. Available allied services include physiotherapy, occupational therapy, psychology, and social work.

Program Activities

Although SLH is relatively well resourced compared to other sub-Saharan hospitals, critical gaps in knowledge, systems efficiency, and resource utilization remain. The Botswana Global Health Program at SLH was created to address these gaps. Initially focused on adult internal medicine, the program expanded to include Obstetrics and Gynecology (OB/GYN) in 2016 and to Anesthesia and Critical Care in 2017, each of which added a full-time BIDMC faculty member to the SLH team. In collaboration with local partners, the program at SLH provides clinical training to university of Botswana medical students, interns, residents, 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. Rotating U.S. residents and fellows have the opportunity to participate in clinical, educational, quality improvement, and research efforts.

Program Oversight

Dr. Tomer Barak, a board-certified Internal Medicine physician, is the country 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 Lockett is the on-site BIDMC faculty OB/GYN program director and Dr. Ed Clune directs the Anesthesia and Critical Care program. Dr. Barak is supported by Drs. Jonathan Crocker (BIDMC) and Claire Zeigler (OHSU) who direct their respective Internal Medicine Residency Global Health Programs in the US. BHP affiliated researchers Drs. Roger Shapiro, Rebecca Zash and Shahin Lockman 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 may have opportunities to see ambulatory patients in the hospital outpatient department and surrounding community clinics. 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:** Dedicated Program Housing in Molepolole is available to rotating residents.
- **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 fellows in Infectious Disease and other medicine subspecialties 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
- Applications are accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis

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 Botswana 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 (www.medicalprotection.org)
- International Helpers (Guernsey) Trust (www.aaintl.com/overseas_liability.cfm)

Contacts:

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

Additional information:

www.bidmc.org/medical-education/global-health-at-bidmc/botswana-global-health-program