

## Grassroots advocacy in subspecialty fellowships: developing curriculum in global health

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Interest in global health (GH) is increasing among medical trainees and has been incorporated into the curriculum in some entry-level residency programs. The GH interest group in the Pediatric Hematology/Oncology training program at SickKids represents a group of trainees who began to meet out of a common interest to discuss GH in the context of the subspecialty, share individual experiences (including research and educational initiatives) and conduct a journal club. The group is self organized and led, with support and mentorship from the faculty. A formal proposal to collaborate with another large pediatric cancer institution for the purpose of developing a formal trainee twinning initiative is under review.

Upon request from the program director, the training committee has approved the introduction of GH training as part of the core curriculum. The GH interest group is charged with developing the goals and objectives for this training, blueprinting the content and identifying speakers. Content components to date have included social responsibility, cultural competency and research ethics in GH. Opportunities to discuss determinants of health, burden of disease and access to care both for our local and global patient populations have been invaluable.

This advocacy initiative was developed from a common trainee interest and has resulted in the implementation of formal teaching within the core curriculum, with a planned elective experience. The educational implications are broad with respect to the CanMEDS Roles of Health Advocate, Collaborator, Communicator, Professional and Scholar. Support from the faculty, in acknowledging this interest and motivation and translating them into the institutional and academic framework, was deemed critical in this process.