

## Risk reduction agreement for pediatric global health electives

According to the World Health Organization, injuries are the leading cause of preventable death in travelers. From 2003 to 2005, an estimated 2,276 U.S. citizens died from injuries and violence while in foreign countries (excluding deaths occurring in Iraq and Afghanistan). Road traffic crashes led the list of causes (34%), followed by homicide (17%), and drowning (13%). Depending on travel destination, duration, and planned activities, other common injury and safety concerns include natural hazards and disasters, civil unrest, terrorism, hate crimes against Americans, falls, burns, poisoning, drug-related overdose, and suicide.

**Traveling by car in the developing world is markedly more dangerous** than traveling elsewhere. Travelers should be aware of the increased risk of certain injuries while traveling abroad, particularly in low-income countries, and be prepared to take preventive steps to avoid them (Sleet, 2009). By following the risk reduction agreement outlined below, travelers can significantly decrease their personal risk for a preventable injury.

### Personal Health:

- I will arrange an appointment with my primary medical doctor or, if available, a travel clinic, to ensure that pre-travel vaccinations, medications, malarial prophylaxis, and other essential medications are obtained prior to departure.
- If I have psychiatric or other health issues that may be exacerbated under stressful and unfamiliar situations, I will meet with my therapist and/or personal physician to weight the benefits and risks of participating in a global health elective.

### Occupational Standards:

- I have reviewed the Global Child Health Educational Modules Project (GCHEMP) occupational exposure guidelines, and I understand the recommendations to have a filled prescription for post-exposure HIV prophylaxis in the event of an exposure.
- I will bring a supply of fitted N95 masks and gloves and will utilize universal precautions at all times.

### Travel and Recreational Safety:

- I will wear safety belts in vehicles when a belt is available.
- I understand that my institution recommends against traveling on motorcycles, in the open back or tops of vehicles and trains, and at dusk or nighttime. I will participate in those modes of travel at my own risk.
- I will utilize a helmet when riding a bicycle when a helmet is available.
- I will avoid travel after the consumption of alcohol.
- When engaging in water sports, I will wear personal flotation devices, will avoid hazardous or unknown conditions, and will not consume alcoholic beverage while on the water. I will not operate watercraft or participate in scuba diving without proper training.

## Code of conduct for pediatric global health electives

### Professionalism and Behavior:

- As a representative of my institution, I will hold myself to the highest standards of professionalism, respect and courtesy.
- I will always act in the best interests of my patients and hosts.
- I recognize that personal behaviors, clinical skills and competencies are culturally framed and resource-dependent. I will therefore refrain from passing judgment or expressing opinions that are insensitive to those contextual frameworks.
- I will minimize the burden of my presence on my host institution. Specifically, I will be mindful of their resources when I order tests or medications for patients; I will arrange for a translator when needed and not use nursing or other staff unless their services are offered; and I will ensure that I pay a stipend for meals and housing as needed.

### Clinical Care:

- I will care for patients under the direct supervision of my faculty mentor or local preceptor within the limitations established by my level of training.
- I will not make any promises to patients or local clinicians regarding allocation of resources at the local institution or financial assistance from my institution.
- I will not make direct donations to a patient or other individual, as I understand that it would compromise the patient-clinician working relationship and would also set a precedent for future visiting clinicians. If I would like to contribute to a patient's care, I will do so in an anonymous manner through the host administration.

#### **Social Media and Photographs:**

- I will use discretion in taking photographs. I will seek permission (with full transparency of purpose) from individuals being photographed and from my host institution prior to taking any photographs.
- I will respect the privacy of my host community and individuals, and will not post patient or facility information on internet venues (blogs, Facebook, photo websites, etc).
- I understand that comments that are accessible to other viewers might be misinterpreted. I will therefore refrain from making comments about my host institution or patients on any social media (including Facebook and password-protected or unprotected blogs), and will limit my comments about the experience to direct e-mails to family and friends.

#### **Personal Conduct:**

- I will respect and comply with the rules, regulations, and cultural standards of both the US and my host country and institution, and I will attend to any legal problems that I encounter. My host institution is not responsible for providing legal assistance for any legal issues that are secondary to misconduct on my behalf.
- I will refrain from participating in political activity.
- I will dress in a culturally appropriate and professional manner.

#### **Research and Teaching:**

- I will consult with a faculty mentor if I am interested in conducting research or obtaining data for publication during my global health elective to ensure that I obtain IRB approval.
- When providing educational presentations, I will be mindful of resource limitations and will incorporate teaching points that utilize local resources and local expertise.

#### **Risk reduction resources:**

1. This risk reduction agreement was adapted with permission from a similar document at the Medical College of Wisconsin
2. David A. Sleet, L.J. David Wallace, David R. Shlim, CDC Yellow Book, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2009.
3. Elaine Jong and Christopher Sanford, The Travel and Tropical Medicine Manual, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., Saunders Inc., 2003.

#### **Code of conduct resources:**

1. This code of conduct was adapted from codes of conduct or professionalism agreements from the following institutions: Medical College of Wisconsin, UW-Madison, University of Minnesota, UW-Milwaukee
2. Global Health Education Consortium Code of Conduct for Teaching and Service: [http://globalhealtheducation.org/resources/Documents/Both%20Students%20And%20Faculty/GHEC\\_Code\\_of\\_Conduct\\_for\\_Teaching\\_and\\_Service.pdf](http://globalhealtheducation.org/resources/Documents/Both%20Students%20And%20Faculty/GHEC_Code_of_Conduct_for_Teaching_and_Service.pdf)
3. Crump JA, Sugarman J. Ethical Considerations for Short-term Experiences by Trainees in Global Health. JAMA. 2008;300(12):1456-1458
4. Crump JA, Sugarman J. Ethics and Best Practice Guidelines for Training Experiences in Global Health. Am J Trop Med Hyg. 2010 Dec;83(6):1178-82.
5. Philpott J. Applying Themes from Research Ethics to International Education Partnerships. American Medical Association Journal of Ethics. 2010; 12, Number 3: 171-178. (<http://virtualmentor.ama-assn.org/2010/03/toc-1003.html>)
6. Pfeiffer J, Johnson W, Fort M, Shakow A, Hagopian A, Gloyd S, Gimbel-Sherr. Strengthening health systems in poor countries. A code of conduct for nongovernmental organizations. Am J Pub Health. 2008; 98 (12):2134-2140 (NGO Code of Conduct: <http://ngocodeofconduct.org/>)
7. WHO: International recruitment of health personnel: draft global code of practice. Report by the Secretariat. 2010; ([http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\\_files/EB124/B124\\_13-en.pdf](http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/EB124/B124_13-en.pdf))

## **Acknowledgment of review: risk reduction agreement and code of conduct**

*Please submit this signed form to your residency program director or global health faculty mentor*

I have reviewed the risk reduction agreement and code of conduct as outlined in the Global Child Health Educational Modules Project "Preparation for Global Health Electives" packet.

I understand that both my institution and my host institution have the right to enforce the standards of risk reduction and code of conduct as described in the documents, and that the institutions have the right to impose sanctions, up to and including expulsion from my global health elective, for violating these standards or for any behavior detrimental to or incompatible with the interest, harmony, and welfare of my institution, the host institution, or my patients.

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**Participant's Name (please print)**

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**Participant's Signature**

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**Date**