* MEDICAL MISSION TO MALI
PA CLASS OF 2012
Lorraine Cashin
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It is a global world that we live in; look at any industry and you can see the creation of a global environment. Global finance, global business, global history, and international law are just a few examples. Global education and small business loans as well as plenty of philanthropic businesses are surfacing.
* Provocative
* Elicits a great deal of enthusiasm from students and faculty
* Utilized by governments to forge new relationships with underdeveloped areas of the world
* Timely

*Global Health*
* Tropical medicine
* Public health
* International health

Where does the definition fit in?

* Global Health
* Addressing health as a primary focus
* Improve societal infrastructure
  * Economic
  * Social
  * Cultural

* Healthcare as a gateway
* International medicine in third world countries has been a passion of mine since before I came here to Mercy College - however, now I am in the unique position of being able to incorporate both my passion of teaching with my practice of medicine

* International medicine does not always mean third world countries to everyone

* It is an individual definition - we need to look at the global perspective

* Breakthroughs in individual countries should be used to enhance medicine throughout the world

*International Medicine*
This is a frequently encountered question.

Why when there exist many areas in the US that require help do you go to a third world country?

There is access for everyone as long as they take the initiative.

Third world countries do not have that same access to health care.

Why not the US?
* We have a student in the Mercy College PA Program who is originally from Mali

* She made many of the initial connections with the Malian medical community that we would be working with

* This opened the door for us to be able to approach the PA class and determine who would be interested in traveling to Mali to see how we could be of service.

*Why Mali?
We found out that 16 of our students really wanted to partake in this journey.

We had many “Africa” meetings starting approximately 4 months preceding the journey to get our visas, vaccinations, lodging, transportation, and food arrangements.

We were fortunate enough to make contact with AFYA (Swahili for good health) who worked closely with us in gathering and sorting medical supplies.

*Initial Plans for the Journey to Mali*
Folder for Mali (make one copy for school and one for emergency contact):

- Copy of Passport
- Copy of waiver from Mercy
- Copy of evacuation insurance coverage
- Emergency contact List
- Copy of Immunizations

Mali Visa Application Form:
You Can Make a Difference
Mercy College Medical Mission to Mali

Help provide much needed medical care and supplies.

The students and faculty of the Mercy College Graduate Program in Physician Assistant Studies are embarking on an international medical mission to Mali, a country in western Africa, in May of this year.

Mali is one of the poorest countries in the world and faces many health challenges related to poverty, malnutrition, and inadequate hygiene and sanitation. Medical facilities are very limited and medicines are in short supply.

Your donation will make it possible for us to provide medical care to an underserved population. Your contribution will make an enormous difference to the people of Mali by helping us provide much needed medical attention and supplies.

As a long-time resident and member of the community I am reaching out to my neighbors and asking you to support this worthwhile endeavor.

To contribute by credit card please go to the following link: www.mercy.edu/alumni-friends/support-mercy/make-a-gift. Please type “Medical Missions to Mali” in the space provided for how you wish the gift to be used. If you wish to send a check, please make it payable to “Mercy College”, make a note on the reference line of the check that it is for the “Mercy College Medical Mission” or any other donations send to:

PA Program, Mercy College, 1200 Waters Place, Bronx, NY 10461.

Thank you for helping us help others.

Lorraine Oskiak

*Fun-fundraising begins
* Designed by the Malian health care providers at Pont G hospital and outpatient clinic
* Prepared specifically for our trip
* Designed with input from PA program faculty and accompanying providers

* Needs Assessment for Mali
AFYA served as a home-based organization where we were able to go and collect what was to become our 20 duffel bags full of supplies. We would donate the contents of the duffels to the hospital and clinics in Mali to and donate to the Malian clinicians to distribute when we left.

Up until today we still receive emails that they are still utilizing some of our supplies that we were able to donate.

* Needs Assessment for Mali
The collection was focused around the goal of the trip which had the outcome of a needs assessment project.

The journey we were about to embark on was the first time out to a third world country for the majority of the students.

The needs assessment was based on my previous experience in other African countries.
* On the bus by 8 am
* Head count
* Work in whatever area needed us most
* Water run every couple of hours
* Lunch when we could
* Dinner at 7
* Debriefing EVERY night
* There were many expectations that we had going into the country.

* Many of the expectations were met whereas some experiences took us completely by surprise
* One expectation that came to life was the shortage of medical supplies in Bamako, the capital of Mali
* Shortage of medications in the area.
* Shortage of medical providers
* An enormous amount of patients that needed care

*Expectations*
* Humble practitioners
* Eagerness to teach
* Eagerness to learn
* Kindness
* Hospitality
* Pride

*Things we expected*
* Expected poverty
* Expected begging in the area
* Expected crime
* The students to be educated
* The students to be transformed
* The extreme level of poverty
* Survival mechanisms - theft
* The students to educate the Malian providers
* The students to become engulfed in the culture and the medicine

*Things we didn’t expect*
* Extreme heat with such a high level of humidity
* To have our possessions stolen from the help where we were staying
* The patience of people in the heat
* The immediate positive response to us and the hospital and clinic wanting to form a collaboration with Mercy College after one trip

*Things we didn’t expect*
* When we had a case in front of us - the Malian physician seek our advice on how we would treat that in the US?
* Actually see them incorporate western medicine into theirs
* Our workups into their workups - a real sense of collaboration

*Things we didn’t expect*
* To be on television and to be in the media as much and as often as we were
* To be invited to so many places that we would often have multiple places to choose
* To have a count off every morning and evening as we got in the bus to make sure we didn’t leave anyone behind!!!

*Things we didn’t expect*
* Student career choices
* Enhanced clinical skills
* Enriched cultural competency
* Greater social awareness and empathy

* Student outcomes
* Medical supplies
* Pharmaceuticals
* Clothing
* Medical literature
* Exchange of ideas
* A PROMISE TO RETURN

* Building partnerships through student participation
* Healthcare as an investment
* Keep supply chain moving
* Increase productivity
* Empowering societies to face challenges
* Partnership to build infrastructure
* A continuing partnership
* Enhanced learning experiences
* Increasing awareness of cultural diversity
* Enriched student outcomes as a result of collaboration with Mercy College faculty, US providers, students and our global partners
* Expanding new horizons - Cameroon, Ghana

*What the future holds*