Office of International Programs
Faculty International Program Development Grants
“The Brazilian Health System”

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Proposal title: The Brazilian Health System

Country/ies visited: Brazil

Institution visited: Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, FIOCRUZ Foundation, Municipal Health Department of Rio de Janeiro.

Dates of travel: July 8-August 10, 2012

Number of student participants: None yet. Planning for 12

Previous IP proposals submitted and grants awarded (list titles, countries and dates): Peking Union Medical College Exchange/Research Collaboration, CHINA, July 2011

Have all required reports been submitted? Yes

Other funding for this activity available/applied for: Future experience will be part of HHS 350 course

Proposal Abstract: This trip was to research and plan a study abroad opportunity for students in the College of HHS to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The participants will have an opportunity to hear presentations by faculty of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro and SDSU on the Brazilian health system and on public health issues affecting the diverse Brazilian population. Students will gain an appreciation of the challenges and successes in expanding family health centers across Rio favelas.
Travel report:

I. Opening/overview of intentions/activity:
This was a planning trip to set up a 10-day annual trip for undergraduate and graduate health sciences students to Rio de Janeiro to study the Brazilian health system as part of HHS 350. Previously, we have conducted pilot research projects with Brazilian colleagues at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ) and the Municipal Health Department of Rio, and we have submitted several research proposals for future collaborative work with our GSPH. We have established and signed a Memorandum of Understanding between SDSU and UFRJ to support expanded academic exchanges.

II. In preparation for the trip abroad
Collaborations: We initially developed working relationships with colleagues at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ)—Professor Jose Roberto Lapa e Silva and Dr. Andrea B. Sereno. Through them we collaborated with Provost Debora Fogel of UFRJ to establish a MOU; she visited SDSU and met with our Provost, Nancy Martin in 2011. We established contact with Dr. Betina Durovni, Superintendent of Integration and Planning at the Municipal Health Department, which oversees the development of Family Health Centers throughout Rio and with Professor Paulo Buss, past director of the Brazilian equivalent of the US National Institutes of Health (FIOCRUZ Foundation). UFRJ is one of the leading health sciences and research universities in Brazil. In December 2011, I visited Rio and saw the Family Health Centers in action in at least three different favelas.

Email contacts:
Professor Jose Roberto Lapa e Silva: jrlapa.ntg@terra.com.br
Dr. Andrea B. Sereno: absereno@gmail.com
Dr. Betina Durovni: bdurovni@gmail.com
Professor Paulo Buss: buss@fiocriu.br
Asst: Claudia Teixeira: claudiat@fiocriu.br
Christopher Gaffney (Geographer who studies Rio urban life): geostadia@gmail.com
Christina Mendonca (independent tour guide): tinariotours@gmail.com
Beto Fagundes (van service): betofagundes@ig.com.br
Ipanema Guest House (hostel): ipanemahouse@ipanemahouse.com

III. Upon arrival-specific activity
The major contacts for this activity are Professor Lapa e Silva and Dr. Durovni. They will arrange university visits, health department visits, and favela health center visits. Christina Mendonca, an independent multi-lingual tour guide, has agreed to arrange tours, hostels, and transportation. I visited several health centers, both standard organizations and the new family health centers that have primary care teams including home visitors. These will be sites where students can visit with health professionals, make home visits with home visitors, and participate in limited activities related to our ongoing research in Rio with the Municipal Health Department. I have had extensive
contacts with FIOCRUZ, and the President, Paulo Buss, is a collaborator. He has instructed staff members to accommodate a visit for the students to hear about research and disease response issues in Brazil. Finally, I met a US citizen who is a faculty member in geography at another university, and he has agreed to provide his insights on urban studies in Rio, especially as they are affected by the upcoming World Cup and Olympics.

IV. Conclusion, recommendation, and next steps?

UFRJ and the Municipal Health Department are high level educational and research organizations in Brazil, where Brazil’s unique health system can be demonstrated. Brazil has codified human rights and the right to health in its constitution, and has acted nationally and internationally to assert these rights. Students will visit the newly developed Family Health Centers that support community based health care for underserved populations. These Centers are located in some of Rio’s most interesting favelas.

This visit is now planned for Spring Break and will be one of the offered options for students taking HHS 350. We could also offer this as a CES course and allow outside students to participate. It should be limited to 12 participants plus one PhD student coordinator. Brazil is an important country, not only in this hemisphere, but as a global leader in health, trade, and development. SDSU should continue to build collaborative relationships (we have these in public health and in the college of sciences already) with UFRJ, a leading university there. Joint research should also continue to be pursued, and we are submitted an NIH grant on TB and tobacco use that is based on previous collaboration. This will benefit PhD and possibly masters’ students in health sciences; the planned Spring Break visit will benefit undergraduates in CHHS as a required component of their studies in that college.

I will plan to lead the first HHS 350 section to Rio in April 2013; thereafter, I will supervise one of the PhD students in global health who will accompany the undergraduate participants.

V. Additional Information

A draft schedule has been approved by the Brazilian counterparts and is attached. We will need to send formal letters of request from CHHS to Professor Lapa, Dr. Durovni, and Professor Buss. I will draft for signature by administrative leadership.
Proposed Spring Break HHS 350 Field Trip 2013
“The Brazilian Health System”
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Dates:
Depart San Diego—Saturday, March 30
Arrive Rio—Sunday, March 31 (Easter)
Depart Rio—Saturday April 6
Arrive San Diego—Sunday April 7

Course Coordinator: TNovotny

Hotel: Ipanema Beach House, Rua Barão da Torre, 485, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, 22411-003
011 (55)21 3202-2693, ipanemahouse@ipanemahouse.com

Notes: This is a backpacker place with nice courtyard, small pool, internet. Very reasonable in the nicest and safest part of Rio (Ipanema)

Local Transport Operator: (Nice van…not sure about language capacity but his card is bilingual)
Beto Fagundes, 21-7834-4598, 21-8157-5852, betofagundes@ig.com.br

Tentative Schedule:

Sunday, March 31
Arrive: late morning and check in to hotel, recover at the beach
Dinner: group dinner with course coordinator at Garota de Ipanema Restaurant: Vinicius de Morais 49, Rio de Janeiro, State of Rio de Janeiro 21072-540, Brazil (This is where the song, Girl from Ipanema was composed—open air, close to beach).

Monday, April 1
AM: Visit to the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro:
Introduction to the Brazilian Health System

PM: Box lunches  
Naturalist-led Hike in the Tijuca Forest (Atlantic Rain Forest in Rio de Janeiro)  
Dinner on own

Tuesday, April 2  
AM: Visit to the Rio de Janeiro Municipal Health Department:
   Introduction to the Public Health in Rio: Dr. Betina Durovni and staff  
   Urban Challenges of Infectious Diseases  
   Urban Challenges of Non-infectious Diseases  
   Family Health System  
   Successes with HIV/AIDS

PM: Downtown Rio: Art Museum, Tour of Teatro Municipal, finish with dinner and night out in Lapa neighborhood (music and night life).  
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lapa,_Rio_de_Janeiro  
Home by Metro or taxi

Wednesday, April 3  
AM: Visit to Rocinha Favela Family Health Centers  
Project work

PM: Free Afternoon  
Check Soccer Schedule

Thursday, April 4  
AM: Visit to Fundacion Oswaldo Cruz  
Health Research Priorities in Brazil

PM: Lunch in Jardim Botanico and tour  
Tour to Corcovado via funicular  
Dinner at Don Camilo or other Restaurant on the beach, Copa Cabana walk around

Friday, April 5  
AM: Visit to Federal University of Rio de Janeiro