# **Medical Volunteerism**

# A Curriculum On: Ethical Constructs, Sustainability, and Personal Implications

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#### Background

- Religious medical missions 1850s1
- Secular medical volunteerism early 1900s, increased with governmental and NGOs - 1960s<sub>2</sub>
- Growing concerns regarding practices and outcomes 2
- Continued increases in personal and financial involvement, up to \$4 billion yearly<sub>3</sub>
- No widely accepted didactic training or legal constructs
- Accounts of medical volunteers acting outside their scope of training or qualifications<sub>4</sub>
- Sparse data addressing the practices, ethics, or short- and long-term outcomes

#### Objectives

- · Review the existing literature
- Determine commonly repeated themes
- Outline lesson plan
- Highlight and encourage future research on volunteer practices and outcomes

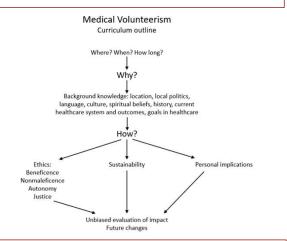
### Literature cited

- 1. 'Medical Volunteerism in Africa: An Historical Sketch', Olakanmi O, Perry PS MSJ. History of Medicine 2006;8(12):863-870.
- 2. 'More harm than good? The questionable ethics of medical volunteering and international student placements', Bauer I. Tropical Diseases, Travel Medicine and Vaccines 2017;3:5.
- 3. 'The Trouble with Medical "Voluntourism", Sullivan N. Scientific American 2017.
- 4. 'The medical student global health experience: professionalism and ethical implications', Shah S, Wu T. Journal of Medical Ethics 2008;34: 375-378.
- 5. 'The Ethics of Medical Volunteerism', Stone GS, Olson KR. Medical Clinics of North America 2016;100(2): 237-246.

# Methods

Literature review of published works searched with terms such as "medical volunteerism," etc. Repeated themes were then used to format a concise lesson plan and PowerPoint that both follow the literature review.

#### Results



### Conclusion

- No formal guidelines and expectations upheld across international borders
- International medical volunteer work should follow similar standards/laws as international medical research<sub>5</sub>
- Future directions
- Utilize lesson plan and PowerPoint
- Increase research
- Continue to modify the lesson plan regarding research done in the future

