Medical Volunteerism
A Curriculum On: Ethical Constructs, Sustainability, and Personal Implications
Layne Anderson

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

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
- No formal guidelines and expectations upheld across international borders
- International medical volunteer work should follow similar standards/laws as international medical research

Future directions
- Utilize lesson plan and PowerPoint
- Increase research
- Continue to modify the lesson plan regarding research done in the future

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

Literature cited
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.