SERVICE - LEARNING

At Boston University School of Medicine

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

WHAT IS SERVICE-LEARNING?

- *Service-learning is defined as a structured learning experiences that combines community services with preparation and reflection. Students engaged in service-learning provide community service in response to community-identified concerns and learn about the context in which service is provided, the connection between their service and their academic coursework, and their roles as citizens and professionals.*
  - *From Seifer SD. "Service-learning: Community-campus partnerships for health professions education." Academic Medicine, 73(3):273-277 (1998)*

Service-learning Opportunities at BUSM

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Why is it Important?

Service-learning at BUSM offers medical students a unique learning experience by exposing you to community-based medicine and social advocacy. They encourage the development of professionalism, ethics, and humanitarian values.

OUTREACH VAN PROJECT

The Outreach Van Project (OVP) at Boston University Medical Campus was founded in January 1997 by several students at BU School of Medicine and School of Public Health under the guidance of an advisory board and aid from several BU affiliated community agencies.
The OVP aims to have a positive impact on the health and well-being of the medically underserved populations in the Greater Boston Area.

OVP's goals are to:

- *provide basic necessities such as food, clothing, toiletries, dental supplies and medical care*
- *make concerted efforts to connect people that are underserved to primary care and other community services such as shelters and detox programs*
- *provide students with hands-on involvement in working with the underserved.*

OVP provides reliable and consistent care to the underserved, predominantly Hispanic community of East Boston, where 20% of the population and 25% of the children live below the poverty line. 40% have less than a high school education. Many of the patients are from Central American where they have witnessed war crimes and human rights abuses. As a result, may of them suffer from mental illness. Currently, the OVP is the only outreach agency serving the underserved community in East Boston.

The needs of the clientele are address by medical students accompanied by a licensed physician. Students work together with physicians to address immediate medical concerns and inform patients of his or her options to coordinate primary care that will not strain their limited resources.

Outreach Van Project
outreach@bu.edu
http://people.bu.edu/outreach

THE SHAREWOOD PROJECT

The Sharewood Project is a free healthcare organization run by medical students and physicians that offers free care to the medically underserved. Sharewood also acts as a gateway for people without health insurance to enter the health care system by directing them toward primary care services within their community.

The project engages with a strong network of community based organizations, educational institutions, and local resources to enhance the care of all of Sharewood's patients and their families. The project also strives to provide medical students with the chance to build interpersonal skills through clinical interactions. Sharewood promotes five core values essential to any aspiring physician – compassion, sensitivity, leadership, education, and excellence.

The Sharewood Project Clinic is held every Tuesday at the First Church of Malden from 6:30 – 9:00pm and offers services such as:

- ✓ primary care medicine
- ✓confidential HIV, sexual health, and STD testing and counseling
- ✓ Hepatitis B screening and vaccinations
- ✓Annual flu shots
- ✓ Case management
- ✓Free laboratory testing

Sharewood opened its doors on February 18, 1997 after a year and a half of planning and hard work. By August 1998, the clinic had seen 244 patients with a total of 465 patient visits! Sharewood serves a very diverse population. It has approximately 2500 patient visits. 60% of their patient population is Mandarin Chinese, followed by Cantonese speaking patients. 40% have only been in the US less than one year.

The name "Sharewood" is based on the Robin Hood/Sherwood Forest idea of giving to the poor. The reason "Sherwood" became "Sharewood" is that the Sharewood Project is not about robbery and simple handouts. It is a mutual give and take where those receiving health services provide a learning opportunity for students. The experience is shared rather than given.

www.sharewood.info | administrator@sharewood.info

Project TRUST

(Teaching, Referral, Understanding, Support, and Testing)

" We will understand you, support you, counsel you, test you, and teach you…We will never judge you."

Project TRUST is a part of the Center for HIV/Aids Care and Research at Boston Medical Center and offers free and confidential rapid HIV and Hepatitis C testing and counseling services. The staff speaks over ten languages and is experienced in providing counseling and risk reduction services.

The project also conducts educational presentations at treatment centers, halfway houses, rehab centers, schools, and shelters.

Testing is available Monday through Friday from 9:00am – 4:00pm. Project TRUST offers 3 different HIV tests (Rapid Test, Serum Test, OMT), testing for Hepatitis B & C, and STD testing for diseases such as Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Syphillis.

Project TRUST also has a satellite site, Project Umbrella at the Dimock Detox in Roxbury.

The project is funded by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Project TRUST
721 Massachusetts Avenue
Boston, MA 02118
617.414.4495
www.bmc.org/hiv-aids

Project MED HEALTH

Project MED HEALTH (Helping Educate Adolescents to Live Tomorrow Healthy) is a program created and organized by the students at BUSM. The goal of this project is to educate children in the Boston Public School system about key health issues in order to guide them toward developing healthy lifestyles as they get older. Medical students go out into the schools and lead interactive, technology based educational workshops on various topics including nutrition, fitness, safety, puberty, and sex education.

Contact: Anna Volerman, volerman@bu.edu

Boston Coalition for Adult Immunization (BCAI)

The Boston Coalition for Adult Immunization (BCAI) delivers free flu vaccinations to underserved (or potentially underserved) populations in and around Boston. This program critically depends on the work of students!! B.U. medical students volunteer in conjunction with Tufts and Harvard medical students.

This organization offers students the opportunity to:

- Learn to give flu vaccinations (and actually give them!);
- Visit neighborhood clinics, nursing homes, homeless shelters, and other patient settings in the Boston area; and
- Learn about public health issues and perform community service.

In order to administer vaccinations, students must attend a training session.

CONTACT INFO:

bcai@bu.edu

www.bumc.bu.edu/bcai

CCHERS Program

*The **Center for Community Health Education Research and Service (CCHERS)** is a program whose goal is to increase access to and to improve the quality of healthcare for Boston's multi-cultural and multi-lingual communites by developing partnerships between academia and Boston's neighborhood health centers. CCHERS was founded in 1991 through a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. This partnership offered the unique opportunity to pool resources, coordinate care, and advance the training and education of health care professionals and students interested in community-based care.*

This program is a great way for BUSM students to learn about community health care as they do a portion of their clinical work in the first three years of medical schools at community health centers. The program provides continuity of teaching with typically one physician per four students for the year. Students become comfortable in their 'environment' and often say that it is like "coming home" when they return regularly to their health center.

Currently BUSM sends students to five community health centers in Boston

- **Codman Square Health Center**
- **Dorchester House Multi-Service Center**
- **Neponset Health Center**
- **South Boston Community Health Center**
- **Whitter Street Health Center**

The four students entering the CCHERS site have the chance to become well acquainted and build a strong bond. Students usually travel together to their site and build a lasting mentorship with their CCHERS instructor as well. Students learn how care is delivered at community health centers and are able to explore other primary care services offered at their sites such as family planning, HIV screening and education, and outreach services. Some students pursue degrees in public health as a result of their CCHERS experiences. The diversity of patient populations at these health centers also provides a unique learning experience and students may choose a site because of his or her own language skills. The centers serve Vietnamese-American, Haitian-Creole, Portuguese-Creole, and Spanish-speaking populations.

Contact: Lorraine Stanfield, M.D., lstanfie@bu.edu
www.bumc.bu.edu/busm-ome/cchers-program

PAIRS Program

Boston University Alzheimer's Disease Center

The PAIRS Program provides first year BUSM students with the unique opportunity to learn first-hand about Alzheimer's Disease and related disorders by matching the student with a patient with early Alzheimer's for the academic year. Students learn about the social and support issues associated with living with a neurodegenerative disease through this "buddy" program and informally build a relationship with an individual affected by Alzheimer's.

This elective begins in October with a orientation session focused on educating the students about Alzheimer's and dementia. Students are then partnered with a "buddy", an early Alzheimer's patient in the community and commit to spend four hours per month with their buddy (October – May). From November to May, the PAIRS Program students attend monthly lunch seminars with program faculty, staff, and other students, where they discuss their experiences interacting with their buddies.

PAIRS Program provides excellent exposure to neurology, geriatrics, neuropsychiatry, and neuropsychology. Student participants are invited to seminars and didactics sponsored by the BU Alzheimer's disease Center (BU ADC). Upon successful completion of the program, students will receive a letter of commendation for their medical school file from the Director of the BU ADC.

For more information:
Contact Nicole Cantwell
nicole27@bu.edu
617-414-1193
www.bu.edu/alzresearch

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FaMeS - Family Medicine Student Track

The FaMeS Program provides support and early clinical experience to students at BUSM who are interested in primary care. Students have the chance to participate in many extracurricular experiences that promote learning and community service.

FaMeS students have the advantage of intergrating several different curricular requirements so that they can have the ongoing support of Family Medicine faculty. This program is a great way to get consistent, early exposure to primary care to help students choose what field of medicine they may like to go into.

http://www.bu.edu/familymed/famest/

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Curricular Elements

Year 1 & Year 2
Placement with family medicine faculty member for Integrated Problems and Introduction to Clinical Medicine courses

Year 3
Preferred placement in health centers with family medicine faculty for the required 3rd year clerkship in family medicine.

Year 4
Priority placement in family medicine sub-internship, senior electives, and the Narrative Medicine elective.

All 4 years
Priority enrollment in *The Healer's Art*

Extracurricular Elements
(sample)

- Physical diagnosis and procedure evening workshops
- Social events with family medicine residents and faculty
- Attendance at regional and national Family Medicine conferences
- Opportunities for clinical shadowing
- Evening workshop on clerkship planning and applying to residency
- Summer Externship

SERVICE - LEARNING

CODMAN SQUARE

FISCAL HEALTH SURVEY & INTERVENTION

A Transdisciplinary Service-Learning Program for Graduate & Professional Studies

Created by a partnership of medical students at BUSM and leaders of community-based organizations in the Codman Square area of Boston, this semester-long transdisciplinary service-learning opportunity is designed to build bridges between the social services and between academic and community realities.

As a service-learning program, it is designed to couple learning activities with service actions and cultivate more effective programs to alleviate root causes of social inequities through transdisciplinary training of current and future professionals.

Students will participate in six, 2-hour learning modules throughout the semester such as exploring the links between community economics and community health, effective listening for effective advocacy, and racism. Case-based conferences will also be held where participants can discuss creative solutions to challenging scenarios they have encountered.

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THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BED *at Veterans Affairs Boston Healthcare System*

Program Directors: Michael E. Charness, M.D., Chief of Staff
Cecilia McVey, MSN, MHA, CAN, Associate Director for Nursing/Patient Care Services
email: medstudenthealthtech@va.gov

Program is designed to give students a paid opportunity to participate directly and intensively in the care of veteran patients during the summer after their first year of medical school. Accepted students are hired for the summer as health technicians at the VA Boston Healthcare System. Students undergo four days of intensive orientation and training to learn skills and responsibilities of a health tech on a nursing unit. They are assigned to a nurse mentor on the unit of their choice at the West Roxbury Campus

- Medical
- Surgical
- spinal cord injury,
- medical intensive care,
- coronary care
- surgical intensive care
- progressive care
- emergency

During their two-month service, medical student-health techs engage in direct patient care, and learn a multitude of skills:

- patient assessment
- determination of vital signs
- patient hygiene & feeding
- repositioning and wound care
- placement and monitoring of catheters, IV lines and feeding tubes
- suctioning and respiratory care and care of tracheostomies
- blood drawing
- recording of EKGs

Students attend weekly lectures about a wide array of practical topics such as how to talk to dying patients, physician-nurse collaboration, and patient safety. Upon completion of this program, students will increase their comfort level in direct patient care, learn valuable skills that are not taught directly in medical school, and gain an increased appreciation of the important role that nurses play as part of a multidisciplinary healthcare team.