Global Short-Term Training Program (STTP) Opportunity in Botswana

UCLA, University of Botswana and the Princess Marina Hospital in Gaborone, Botswana, have developed a strong partnership to improve the level of maternal and child care through research to address the predominant cause of preterm labor and sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS. With the support of an NIH R01 study, in-country investigators are also looking at the transmission of TB in districts with high and low HIV prevalence. Current projects include evaluating the use of rapid 4th generation HIV antibody tests to detect early HIV infection in pregnant women, studies to determine the prevalence of STDs in at risk populations, understanding the impact of TB on the sexual transmission of HIV infection and genetic studies of *M. Tuberculosis* infection and associations with clinical progression, transmission and multi-drug-resistant TB.

Students interested in applying to this experience must be highly-motivated, hard-working, able to work independently, flexible, patient and socially adept in different cultural contexts. Students must demonstrate the highest level of professionalism as an ambassador for UCLA in Botswana.

**Project Description:** Upon acceptance to the site, students will be expected to perform a literature review, review current study protocols, develop a study design, plan and/or update Institutional Review Board submissions, and perform other activities in preparation for the summer research project.

Potential projects include a 1) prospective evaluation of 4th generation rapid HIV antibody tests in pregnant women, 2) assessment of sexual risk behavior in newly diagnosed TB patients, 3) evaluation of association of STDs with adverse birth outcomes. There may also be opportunities to work with the US Centers for Disease Control – Botswana.

**Language Requirements:** Highly proficient English language speaking and writing.

**Duration:** 6 weeks. June 9th to July 18th, unless otherwise arranged in advance.
**UCLA Mentors:** Dr. Jeffrey D. Klausner (Infectious Diseases), Claire Bristow MPH, MSc, (Public Health), Sanghuk Shin, PhD (Infectious Diseases).

**Approximate dates:** June 9th arrival in Gaborone—July 19th departure from Gaborone. Personal travel before or after the experience may considered with permission from UCLA mentors. Students must be back in LA by July 23rd to work intensively with mentors on the abstract and poster.

**Positions:** 1 student, possibly 2. The student will be expected to work on research project preparations before departure. The student will present a poster describing the project at the Josiah Brown Poster Fair on Thursday, July 31, 2013.

**Costs:** ~$4,400 (~$2,200 plane ticket; VISA ~$80; vaccines and malaria prophylaxis ~$100, additional expenses including food on-site ~$700 and personal supplies ~$100; housing ~$1200 but possibly more depending on student’s interest in shared versus individual rooms).

**Living situation:** Dr. Nicola Zetola will assist students in finding housing.

**Other logistics:** On-site, students will be supervised by Dr. Nicola Zetola and will work alongside Botswana health care professionals.

Note: Many students who visit Botswana may want to take time to travel before/after the program. This is a wonderful way to combine tourism with this academic experience. However, all travels plans are the responsibility of the student and should be scheduled so as not to conflict with the regularly scheduled program activities.

**Pre-departure requirements:**
1. Attend several in-person group meetings and teleconferences between March and June to include topic presentations and presentation of project implementation plans.

**Deliverables on-site and after return home:**
1. Development of individual abstracts and individual poster presentation at the STTP Josiah Brown Poster Day at the end of the summer, planned for Thursday, July 31, 2014.

Please contact Dr. Jeffrey Klausner JDKlausner@mednet.ucla.edu for further information.