



The University of Iowa Foundation



The Case for Support of the International Residency Rotation Program in The University of Iowa Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine

The Benefits of International Residencies

The International Residency Rotation (IRR) program of the Department of Internal Medicine in the University of Iowa Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine enriches the lives of both the young physicians who participate and those they serve while abroad.

In the United States, physicians in the residency stage of their medical education often work in highly specialized, technologically advanced settings, and patients are accustomed to shuttling among specialists as part of their health care.



In less affluent countries, however, medicine is more often practiced in comprehensive clinical settings, with doctors performing a number of roles. In these clinics in villages and cities, residents see more patients, with a wider variety of medical problems.

Through acquiring a more global perspective on health care, and life in general, residents participating in the IRR program broaden their understanding of the careers on which they're embarking in a way that working in most specialized clinical settings in the United States never could.

Working with local physicians who act as mentors, the medical residents report gaining a deeper understanding of the roles of a doctor in a community. And the relationships between a country's socioeconomic and political issues and its health care system are often underscored in day-to-day interactions, bringing contextual insight into the residents' budding medical careers.

In turn, the people who live in the communities served by these residents benefit from highly educated and well-trained physicians coming into their communities to assist them with their medical needs.

And of course, genuine cross-cultural contact, in which people can gain a better personal understanding of the lives of those who live differently, is vital in today's increasingly interconnected, and often troubled, world.

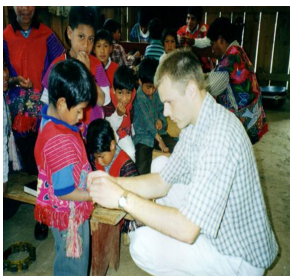
How the International Residency Rotation Program Works

Each year, three residents are supported for one month each. The program's goals for participating residents include:

- To practice medicine within each community's sociocultural context
- To gain an appreciation for another country's health care system while providing health care services and medical aid to an underserved population
- To grow in multicultural sensitivity
- To become an advocate for underserved populations
- To continue the life-long learning processes associated with the practice of medicine

“The experience I had in Honduras will stay with me for the remainder of my life. I realized how important it is to have the heart of a servant, as the demands are great. One must be able to accept and enjoy other cultures, laws, food, and more. There are more responsibilities and more challenging problems with fewer consultants, less financial compensation, and sometimes less appreciation, but it is very rewarding as you see the differences you make in the lives of the people each day. I hope many of my colleagues will be able to share similar experiences in the future.”

**—UI Resident
Brian Petroelje, M.D., who worked in Honduras in 2002 as part of the International Residency Rotation program**





Learning occurs through independent study and hands-on experience. Residents are mentored by a local physician. Formal evaluations include a 30- to 60-minute presentation to other house staff (and students if possible) as a means of sharing information and experience. There are also written evaluations of the resident by the supervising physician, and of the experience by the resident.

How You Can Help Ensure the Program's Survival

The costs associated with sending a resident abroad are significant: Total costs of the program, for all three participating residents combined, require approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000 per year. Expenses for each resident include travel, stipend, temporary health insurance, malpractice insurance (if available), and room and board.

Working with the Department of Internal Medicine, The University of Iowa Foundation is seeking major gifts to establish a \$250,000 endowment fund for the exclusive purpose of supporting the IRR program.

UI alumni Dr. Thomas Bloxham (1972 B.S., 1975 M.D., 1980 fellowship) and Betsy Bloxham (1975 B.A.) of Wichita, Kansas, have generously committed \$50,000 to the effort because of their strong belief that international exposure for aspiring young physicians is beneficial to residents, the people they serve, the wider medical community, and society in general.

For others who share the Bloxhams' conviction of the efficacy of the IRR program, this endowment initiative offers an excellent opportunity to match one's philanthropic goals with a genuine area of need at the UI. Gifts to the fund—payable over several years and managed in perpetuity by the UI Foundation—will ensure the survival of the program, independent of annual budgetary fluctuations.

The result will be generations of UI medical residents gaining valuable cross-cultural experience, benefiting their own careers, the medical communities of which they will be a part, and the lives of underserved patients around the world.

Recognizing Your Generosity

With your permission, in an effort to encourage others to add to the endowment, the UI Foundation will publicize your gift through press releases and in University and UI Foundation publications, as well as privately to prospective donors who may wish to build upon your generosity.

Once the endowment is fully established and is being used to benefit the IRR program, the UI Foundation will send annual reports informing you of the fund's investment performance and the ways in which it is being used to fulfill your philanthropic wishes.



In addition, cumulative giving to any area(s) of the UI totaling \$40,000 or more will make you eligible for membership in The Presidents Club, the UI's most prestigious donor-recognition society.

For more information on supporting the International Residency Rotation program in the Department of Internal Medicine in the UI Carver College of Medicine, please contact:

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