

# Clinical and Public Health Elective – Baja California (FPM 244/MED 248)

## Syllabus

(Revised 10/9/12)

### 1. Overview

In 1981, Tijuana's Universidad Autonoma de Baja California (UABC) School of Medicine began a series of academic and research field trips to rural regions in Baja California and Sonora, Mexico. These trips are an integral part of the academic curriculum for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year UABC medical students. In 1998, faculty and students from University of California San Diego (UCSD) School of Medicine and San Diego State University (SDSU) Graduate School of Public Health partnered with UABC and expanded these trips to provide students with hands-on clinical experience as well as applied public health research and practice. The collaboration was named **VIIDAI: Viaje Interinstitucional de Integracion, Docente, Asistencia y de Investigacion** (Inter-institutional Retreat for Integration, Teaching, Assistance and Investigation). VIIDAI is an integrated clinical and public health experience for U.S. and Mexican medical and graduate students. Faculty and student teams spend 3 days in San Quintin, Baja California, Mexico, address common clinical and public health problems in underserved populations. Students take part in activities ranging from clinical practice, to survey research, to health promotion and education. Cross-cultural exchange is an integral component of this course.

### 2. General Information

- **Title**
  - Clinical and Public Health Elective – Baja California (FPM 244/MED 248)
  
- **Course director**

*Dr. Richard Garfein*  
*Division of Global Public Health*  
*Department of Medicine*  
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- **Electives coordinator**

*Jacqueline Blackburn*  
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- **Course administrator**

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- **Participating instructors**
  - Jose Luis Burgos, MD, MPH ([jlburgos@ucsd.edu](mailto:jlburgos@ucsd.edu))
  - Marianne Mckennett, MD, MPH ([mmckennett@ucsd.edu](mailto:mmckennett@ucsd.edu))
- **Fees**
  - A **\$195.00** fee covers the costs of transportation, hotel, and meals while in San Quintin. Fees must be paid by the date of the Orientation meeting and are **non-refundable**.
- **Prerequisites**
  - Competency in Spanish is not required, but adds significantly to the student's experience.
- **Lottery**
  - This elective is limited to 10 students.
  - To sign up for the course, students must first request to be entered into the lottery by contacting Jacqueline Blackburn ([jblackburn@ucsd.edu](mailto:jblackburn@ucsd.edu)).

### 3. **Schedule of Required Student Activities**

- Attend VIIDAI orientation meeting at UABC in Tijuana, Mexico on a Saturday 2-4 weeks prior to the trip.
  - There will be a mandatory orientation meeting at UABC in Tijuana, Mexico. Students meet in the parking lot below the BioMed Library for the orientation at 7:30 am. The orientation runs from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Travel arrangements will be made by email prior to this date. If students have compelling reasons for missing the orientation, but still wish to go on the trip, please contact Dr. Garfein.
- Attend the 3-day, 2-night trip to San Quintin, Baja California, Mexico (Oct. 19-21, 2012).
  - The day of the trip, we will meet either in the parking lot below the BioMed Library or in the Sheraton parking lot by the Enterprise rental office across La Jolla Village Drive from the VA. All UCSD faculty and students will travel as a group by van to San Quintin. We will return Sunday evening; time varies depending upon the border wait, but we typically get back to UCSD around 8:00-10:00 pm.
- Student activities during the trip:
  - Typically see 5-10 patients during the clinic
  - Partner with UABC medical student to take patient history and physical exam
  - Present patient to attending physicians from UABC and UCSD
  - Participate in two nightly team meetings
  - Participate in and help plan student-led cultural exchange activities
  - Students may also assist in health promotion or epidemiologic research projects organized by SDSU

### 4. **Course Materials/Resources**

- GPH International Travel Notification Form (<http://gph.ucsd.edu/resources/resources-travel.shtml>)

- The UCSD Division of Global Public Health requires that anyone travelling abroad for GPH-related business (UCSD and non-UCSD faculty, staff & students) fill out this form in full, as well as provide proof of travel and medical insurance prior to the date of travel.
- VIIDAI – Know before you go! (*handout*)
- VIIDAI website ([www.viidai.com](http://www.viidai.com))

## 5. **Course Learning Objectives**

### **Goals:**

- To gain an understanding of the differences between healthcare services available in the US, and urban and rural parts of Baja California, Mexico.
- To provide students insight that will help them better serve patients in the US who emigrated from Mexico.
- To participate in cultural exchange with clinicians, medical students, and public health students from Mexico and the US.

### **Objectives:**

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Take medical histories from clinic patients in an underserved area.
- Describe common health conditions experienced by community members in an agricultural region of Baja California, Mexico.
- Describe the expectations and responsibilities of a US medical student working in a rural Mexican clinic.

## 6. **Grading/Assessment and evaluation of student performance**

For unethical or unprofessional discretions that could result in "failure," please see the Policy on the Evaluation of Professionalism in the Advisor and Student Handbook.

### **Course Credit:**

- This is a 2 unit elective.
- This course is grades Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory.
- A satisfactory grade is earned when all the requirements are met.

## 7. **Student evaluation of course and faculty**

Medical students must complete course and faculty evaluations of this and all School of Medicine courses in order to receive a grade. The identity of individual students will not be disclosed to the course instructor(s).

For questions about registering for the course, contact **Jacque Blackburn:**  
858-534-5764 ([jblackburn@ucsd.edu](mailto:jblackburn@ucsd.edu))

For other questions about the course, contact **Dr. Garfein:**  
858-822-3018 ([rgarfein@ucsd.edu](mailto:rgarfein@ucsd.edu))

