

**Keck School of Medicine**  
**The Breman Student International Research Travel Grant**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: December 08, 2008**  
**March 16, 2009**

**I. General**

**A. Goal:** The goal of this grant is to give medical and other health science students at the Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California an opportunity to deepen their appreciation of the health problems of developing countries. A clinical, field, or laboratory **research experience** in a foreign country may encourage students to consider a career in international health and public service.

**B. Objective:** To allow health science students at the School to travel to developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

**C. Stipend and Support:** The travel grant will provide up to **\$5,000** for participant fees, travel expenses, lodging, meals, research activities, personal and liability insurance. All arrangements are the responsibility of the grant recipient and must adhere to the approved application proposal.

**D. Administration:** The office of the Senior Associate Dean for Educational Affairs will accept applications and forward to the Global Health Review Committee. The Educational Affairs office will work with the Financial Aid office to arrange for the disbursement of the award.

**II. Major Requirements**

**A. Candidates.**

The travel grant will be available to any highly motivated medical students who have a strong interest in international public health issues and research in developing countries.

**B. Education and training in medicine and science.**

**Ideally**, student will have completed at least **two years** of professional school training, including courses in physical diagnosis, and have knowledge and competence in protocol design, data analysis, and research ethics.

**C. Time in-country:**

Students should commit to a minimum of **4-8 weeks** in-country.

## **Mentoring and Faculty Linkage**

### **A. Mentors**

Each candidate must assure there is a mentor/sponsor at the Keck School of Medicine and at the institution in which he/she will work with in country. Both sponsors/mentors must submit a letter describing their supervisory and mentoring roles.

### **B. Academic Affiliation**

The student will arrange his/her own experience with their mentors. Preferably, this will be done through faculty at the Keck School of Medicine; however, faculty from other schools and organizations with opportunities that fulfill the goals of the grant are acceptable.

## **IV. Selection criteria.**

A review committee of at least 3 faculty members (and others as decided) will review and score applications based on the following:

- A. Student motivation**
- B. Student academic and other qualifications**
- C. Project description; concept, plan/protocol, feasibility**
- D. Mentor support at Keck School of Medicine (or other approved institution)**
- E. Mentor support at foreign institution**
- F. Learning environment in foreign institution**
- G. Emotional and physical fitness**
- H. International experience**
- I. Foreign language skills**
- J. Support for in-country work and residence**
- K. Cultural opportunities**
- L. Letters or recommendation**
- M. Medical clearance and insurance coverage must be obtained before the candidate can travel**

## **V. Application (see attached form)**

### **1. Project Description and Proposal**

Candidates must describe, in 1,000 words or less, why she or he wishes to receive the travel grant. Candidates must submit a detailed description of the research activity, to include: objective of the project; hypothesis; methods; resources needed; physical, scientific and mentoring environment where the work will be performed.

## **2. Project Summary**

A summary report of the research and travel experience must be submitted to Educational Affairs within 6 weeks of return.

## **3. Goal**

Explain how your project will benefit the population/community you plan to serve and how this experience will benefit your medical education.

## **4. Plans**

The student should address her/his professional plans post-graduation, if known.

## **5. Support Documentation**

Application must be accompanied by the following:

- a. A letter from the in country mentor
- b. A letter from the domestic mentor
- c. A faculty letter of recommendation
- d. Project documentation, i.e, questionnaires, surveys, data forms, etc.
- e. Curriculum vitae

## **VI. In-country Project**

### **A. Description**

1. If a clinical project, describe the place, size of the hospital; patient population (inpatient and outpatient); size and training of clinical staff;
2. If a field project; describe the population; the survey methodology; the questionnaire to be used;
3. If a laboratory-based project, describe the laboratory facilities, equipment; reagents and other supplies; electrical and water availability and reliability (conservation of specimens).
4. The available information technology (computer programs and Internet availability) and the means of data entry and analysis will be described and access to computer support in the project area.

### **B. Linkage**

If the project is an ongoing research activity, describe that project with particular attention to:

1. Previous clearance from the School and local Institutional Review Board
2. Collection and use of specimens.

## **VII. Reports and Presentations**

### **A. Reports**

Each student must complete a brief (3 to 5 page) report of activities and accomplishments at the end of the grant. The report must be submitted to foreign mentor before the student leaves the country.

**B. Presentations**

The student must present an oral summary of her/his activities to staff at the foreign host institution before leaving the country and to Keck School of Medicine upon return. An abstract of the research conducted may be submitted to a scientific meeting upon return, with the participation of the mentors.

**C. Continuation of research activity**

The student may continue the research begun overseas under the guidance of the School mentor, if feasible.





<b>Part Two – Project Description</b>
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**1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION (SUMMARY):**

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**2. REASON FOR APPLYING:**

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**3. DETAILED PROGRAM DESCRIPTION TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING (See Section III):**

Objectives & Aims; Methods, Expected Results; Resources available in-country (This section should not exceed three pages typed single space.)

**4. INCLUDE ALSO:**

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- A. Two letters of recommendation from School staff, one of which must be from the U.S. mentor.
- B. One statement from the host institution and the host mentor.
- C. Copy of curriculum vitae.