

Students Making a Difference

GPSA
for Health



www.gpsa.org

Program Description

GPSA is a summer experience targeted at high school sophomores and juniors, but others are accepted. The program is aimed at students who self-identify as being interested in health careers. Health careers include medical doctor (MD), nurse (RN, LPN), pharmacist, biomedical engineer (BME), dentist and other related fields.

The Experience.

The students' GPSA experience begins in Guatemala City, Guatemala. Students learn to facilitate several screening measurements (height, weight, temperature, blood pressure, heart rate, etc) and complete some introductory cultural and language training with outstanding faculty from American universities.

Then, the entire team travels to Calhuitz, Guatemala. Students spend a bit less than four weeks working in the community, working in a health clinic and health posts. During this time, students take language classes as well as technical classes. GPSA is proud to have outstanding educational collaborators in Duke University, The Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Florida Gulf Coast University.

For their service activity, students are divided into teams led by trained college students. The teams are assigned to 1) facilitate health screenings and community health work, including vaccinations and nutritional intervention, 2) conduct community health trainings such as hygiene or nutritional education, or 3) perform volunteer tasks, including physical labor. Teams rotate every few days so that every participant experiences every activity.

The team takes a short vacation in Panajachel, Guatemala on the way to the final GPSA conference, open to the community. At the conference, students and faculty present their observations, findings and community impact in a professional conference format.

The Benefits

GPSA participants will get a deeper and more meaningful experience from working in a developing world to make a difference. Participants will also get a chance to see if a health career is right for them.

Students will tangibly improve healthcare conditions in the developing world. The students' contribution will be measured and made public each year.

Students will get a chance to “try-out” their future career. Students live with host families during some of the experience furthering their language and cross cultural training. They will find living with a host family and working in a developing world clinic exciting, stimulating and challenging.

GPSA will select up to 30 high school students per site per cycle. Participants should be juniors in the following fall, who have an interest in health care careers. Seniors are fully eligible. Sophomores will be occasionally accepted. Freshman in college may be accepted under particularly compelling reasons.

Program Director:

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Dr. Robert Malkin is the director of the Global Public Service Academy for Health. Dr. Robert Malkin is also the director of the Duke-Engineering World Health Summer Institute and a Professor of the Practice of Biomedical Engineering at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. Dr. Malkin is the founder of Engineering World Health and a current board member. The Engineering World Health Summer Institute is an eight-week study abroad experience targeted at university engineering students who wish to make a positive impact on developing world hospitals. Approximately \$1,000,000 worth of medical equipment is placed back into service each year by The Summer Institute participants.

Previously, Dr. Malkin was the Herbert Herff Professor of Biomedical Engineering at The University of Memphis in Memphis, Tennessee and The University of Tennessee. Before moving to Tennessee, Dr. Malkin was an Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering at The City College of New York and a member of the graduate faculty at The City University of New York and a research associate at Columbia University. Prior to attending graduate school, Dr. Malkin taught English in Thailand, worked at EM Microelectronics in Switzerland designing integrated circuits, worked for Cordis Corporation designing pacemakers and worked for Sarns Incorporated designing heart lung machines.

Dr. Malkin serves as an expert advisor to the World Health Organizations on healthcare technology. Dr. Malkin is a founding board member of PhotoGenesis Medical Incorporated, a company dedicated to manufacturing and distributing devices for curing jaundice in infants born in the developing world.

Dr. Malkin has received numerous awards, including service awards from The Republic of Nicaragua; IEEE – Memphis, EM Microelectronics and Cordis Corporation; a Jefferson Award, an Outstanding Faculty Research Award from The College of Engineering, an Established Investigator Award from the American Heart Association and an award for Innovation and Excellence in Undergraduate Education from The President of The City College of New York. Dr. Malkin is a fellow of the American Institute of Biological and Medical Engineering.