Health Care Delivery & Health Equity in Cuba
An educational exchange for SMU Students and recent alumni
in collaboration with
MEDICC (Medical Education Cooperation with Cuba)
February 14-21, 2016

Join this unique opportunity for an insider’s view of one of the world’s best kept secrets — the Cuban health care system — with a special focus on health care delivery, health equity, and Cuba’s approach to health in all policies.

Participants in this educational exchange will travel under the U.S. Treasury Department’s General License for people-to-people travel (as per travel regulations update on 1.16.2015), with program arrangements made by Medical Education Cooperation with Cuba (MEDICC), a registered 501(c)3. SMU is pleased to be collaborating with MEDICC, whose staff and representatives have guided more than 2,000 people in health-related programs and research in Cuba. MEDICC draws on its long-standing relationships with Cuban health professionals to provide stimulating discussions and unique site visits for U.S. participants.

Can the Cuban health system inform and inspire our own work in the U.S.? Several overarching Cuban philosophical approaches to health will be explored during the exchange. These include:

- Integration of medicine and public health practice at all levels.
- Outcomes-based planning and evaluation.
- Continuous risk assessment at the neighborhood level.
- Targeted intervention/education based on community needs.
- Widespread community engagement in health promotion, education and planning.
- The intersectorality of health: planning programs together with community health organizations, departments of education, transportation, public works, etc.
- Emphasis on prevention.
- Interdisciplinary work-groups as a foundation for healthcare teams.
The weeklong program in Cuba will be tailored to participants’ interests and may include:

• Visit to a polyclinic and neighborhood-level doctor-nurse office; interchange with health providers and patients.
• Meeting with grassroots neighborhood organizations to see their community projects.
• Discussions with public health professionals in Cuba to understand the social determinants and risk factors affecting population health in Cuba, and their emphasis on cross-sectoral work.
• Meetings with health policymakers to compare the challenges faced in the U.S. and in Cuba.
• Engaging with primary and secondary students to understand their health education programs.
• Exchanges with professionals involved in community transformation.

**Travel arrangements and costs**
This educational exchange will be limited to 15-20 participants, who will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Applicants should have passports valid for up to six months after the dates of travel (valid through August 21, 2016). Participation is limited to SMU professional students and recent alumni. MEDICC works closely with Marazul Charters, an agency licensed to make all program and travel arrangements to, from and within Cuba. **Participants are responsible for making their own flight arrangements from their home airport to Miami, and for arranging accommodations in Miami.** The cost for the one-week program, including hotel and ground transportation, will be approximately $2,700-$3,200. Marazul will confirm the price once all members of the delegation are finalized and the customized program has been arranged. **One overnight in Miami will be required on Saturday, February 13, 2016,** and a second may be recommended for Sunday, February 21.

**Cost estimate includes:**

• Round trip airfare between Miami and Havana
• Lodging for seven nights, including daily breakfasts and weekday lunches
• Legal travel fully authorized under OFAC / U.S. Treasury Department travel regulations
• Full program of educational exchanges tailored to your expressed interests
• Ground transportation in Cuba for all program activities
• Pre-trip orientation webinars and relevant readings
• A MEDICC expert and a specialized medical interpreter to facilitate your time in Cuba
• Cuban academic visa
• Health insurance while in Cuba

**PLEASE NOTE:** The following are not included in the cost estimate: domestic roundtrip airfare to Miami; accommodations in Miami; cash only expenses in Cuba for some meals, bottled water, internet/phone, optional activities, tipping, and incidental expenses.

Please click here to register **by September 15**, and contact MEDICC’s Gateways Program Manager, Elizabeth Sayre, at esayre@medicccglobal.org or 510-350-3564, to express your interest.

The cancellation policy is in accordance with Marazul Charters’ rule; the $300 deposit, collected immediately after registration, will be fully refundable up to 60 days prior to travel. Due to the extensive planning and communications involved in coordinating a program of this nature, MEDICC will adhere to a schedule of strict deadlines for finalizing travel arrangements.

**We look forward to hearing from you!**