

ABSTRACT

Pediatric Subspecialty Training Program – Hematology & Sickle Cell Disease Port au Prince, Haiti

The vast majority of pediatric faculty working at Haitian public hospitals are general pediatricians and access to pediatric subspecialists is very limited. The Pediatric Subspecialty Access Program (PSAP) is a 5-year-old plan developed in the aftermath of the disastrous 2010 Haitian earthquake, supported and administered by faculty in the department of Pediatrics at UC Davis School of Medicine. PSAP has been active in teaching and clinical support in various pediatric subspecialties at major Haitian public hospitals' training programs in Port au Prince. In March 2017, a team of faculty from the Department of Pediatrics at UC Davis travelled to Port au Prince to support pediatric medical education in hematology to resident physicians and faculty at three major teaching institutions - Hopital Universite d'Etat d' Haiti, (HUEH), Hopital Universite Mirebalais (HUM) and Hopital Universitaire de la Paix (HUP). Dr. Jong Hee Chung, the AWB funded volunteer on this project, is an expert in the care of children with Sickle Cell Anemia, a disorder related to a genetic mutation particularly prevalent in those of African descent. Over a five day visit, Dr. Chung gave a series of lectures related to Anemia, Sickle Cell Disease and other blood related disorders seen in childhood. Her lectures were geared toward trainees, including diagnosis and therapy options available to residents and faculty in Pediatrics, as well as general medical and surgical residents and faculty. Additionally, Dr. Chung examined selected patients at HUEH and HUM on inpatient rounds with faculty and pediatric residents. Lastly, Dr. Chung was invited to speak to the membership of the Haitian Pediatric Society at their monthly meeting. Future plans include supporting Dr. Chung to make 1-2 more visits to Haiti, concentrating on improving teaching and care regarding pediatric blood disorders at HUEH and HUP. In her next visits, she plans to provide the trainees with a "before and after" set of quizzes, to demonstrate student adequacy in absorbing the information provided.