

*Class 2000*

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CWRU SOM  
Class of 2000

## PROPOSAL FOR OVERSEAS ELECTIVE

### Objectives:

1. To immerse myself in another culture and learn to interact accordingly and adapt to a different social environment
2. To gain an appreciation of indigenous and cross-cultural issues and influences on health care.
3. To sharpen clinical skills and judgement through management of health and disease in a remote and rural community.
4. To increase my understanding of the impact of illness and the sick role as it pertains to the Aboriginal culture.
5. To gain exposure to a unique system of health care designed specifically for the delivery of efficient care to remote settings.
6. To prepare myself for a future career in international and third-world medicine.

### Clinical Activities:

I am arranging my elective through Flinders University in Adelaide, Australia. I have contacted Dr. Jillian Teubner at Flinders and he is very eager to begin a partnership for student exchange with Case Western Reserve School of Medicine. Dr. Teubner has informed me that I have been accepted for an elective at Flinders for February and March of 2000. My hopes are to arrange an elective specifically in Aboriginal Medical Care. The following is a description of the elective:

### Locations:

Alice Springs Hospital  
Central Australian Community

### Background:

Approximately 12,000 people live in Central Australia in remote communities with populations ranging between about 150-1200 people; some communities are linked to out-stations with smaller populations. Health care for the communities is generally delivered by resident Aboriginal health workers and nurses supported by resident or visiting doctors with additional professional support available though telephone or radio consultation. Alice Springs Hospital provides most hospital support. Patients requiring special investigations which are not available are generally transferred to Adelaide. The Royal Flying Doctor Service carries out emergency evacuations from the communities and emergency transfers to Adelaide.

Medical care in remote communities is challenging; without 'on-site' colleagues and with few investigations immediately available, competent and confident clinical skills and judgement are paramount. The elective requires students to live in a community and

perform an active role in delivering medical care under supervision and as an active member of the health care team.

Students are offered a unique opportunity to work with Aboriginal people in their own environment, to see health and disease in an Aboriginal culture and social setting and to deliver medical care in a remote area.

Program:

Students will be based in a rural community attached to an Aboriginal Health Worker as mentor/guide on local and cultural matters; clinical supervision and support will be provided by medical and senior nurses at the clinic with back-up telephone support from one of the hospital physicians.

The program of activities will vary but in all communities students will be expected to participate in regular clinic work (not limiting themselves to any one group of patients). The program of activities will vary and may include MCH (Maternal and Child Health) and immunization activities, home visits and management of acute and chronic illness of all sorts. Students will be required to keep a log book of activities.

Within this framework of general health care the student may undertake such other activities as agreed between the health center staff and the student to fulfill the educational objectives and assessment requirements of the elective. Students who have topic of special interest will be given as much opportunity as possible to study that interest.

Assessment:

1. Assessment of clinical skills through regular case presentations.
2. A general performance assessment by senior clinic staff evaluating participation and interaction with clinic staff and patients.
3. A written case study describing a particular patient and including clinical and social evaluation, review of the management plan and its implementation, patient progress and/or outcome with information extracted from the patient's record and from the student's own experiences with the patient during the elective.
4. Analysis of the log book record of clinical cases.
5. Submission of a small audit or evaluation.

BUDGET (2 month elective):

Airfare (RT)	\$2000
Housing	\$1500 (\$25/day)
Subsistence	\$700
Transportation (in-country)	\$1100
Miscellaneous (passport, cultural events, mail, etc.)	\$500

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**TOTAL: \$5800**