

CASE MEDICAL STUDENT RETURNS
FROM HAITI AFTER ELECTIVE AT
GRACE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Senior medical student Lisa Anderson took an international elective in Haiti in January 2004, returning before the recent civil disruption began. Anderson went to Haiti for an elective rotation at Grace Children's Hospital (GCH) in Port-au-Prince. This hospital, a facility of the International Child Care Foundation (ICC), provides tuberculosis in-patient and out-patient care for Haitian children. It has ambulatory clinics for both pediatric and adult tuberculosis patients and also provides some primary pediatric care.

The connection between GCH/ICC and Case began nearly 30 years ago when Dr. Thomas Daniel, Emeritus Professor of Medicine and International Health, journeyed to Haiti to serve as a consultant to ICC as it initiated its tuberculosis programs. Daniel has made many subsequent visits to Haiti, but until the present time the staff at GCH was reluctant to commit its resources to support visiting medical students. After rethinking its mission, ICC's director, Jim Hofstetter, interviewed Lisa Anderson and accepted her as its first visiting medical student. Anderson is fluent in French and served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Rwanda before entering medical school. "I can't think of a student better qualified to initiate what I hope will be an on-going relationship with GCH," commented Daniel, who arranged Anderson's contact with ICC.

"GCH is a busy well-kept collection of buildings surrounding a quiet green courtyard," reported Anderson. "The inpatient hospital resides in two large rooms on the second floor of one of the central concrete buildings, alongside administrative offices and community health work areas. The grounds below contain the pharmacy, eye clinic, adult ambulatory clinic, TB clinic, radiology area, mycobacterial laboratory and general laboratory. Across the street lies an unfinished building currently housing the outpatient pediatric clinic. Volume at the outpatient pediatric and adult medicine clinics was quite high, with patients presenting a mixture of chronic and acute conditions. I spent my time on the inpatient ward examining patients and reading their charts. Since days might pass without a new admission to this ward, my time spent there allowed for some more in-depth reading on relevant topics as well."

"As clinical director of GCH, Dr. Marie-Renée Lubin accepted and supervised my rotation there. Dr. Lubin's hospitality was exceptional... Having been with GCH for many years, as well as having served as the president of the Haitian Pediatric Association and founding president of the Haitian Tuberculosis Association, Dr. Lubin is a remarkable woman and a great resource for learning about many pediatric health and social issues."

“It is my hope,” commented Daniel, “that other students will follow Lisa Anderson. Third world experiences for French-speaking students are harder to find than for Spanish-speakers or those with only English. Grace Children’s Hospital offers a unique educational experience in a French language environment.”

Anderson’s complete report of her elective is available in the office of the Center for Global Health and Diseases on the fourth floor of the Wolstein Building.

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