Staff Nurse Perspective on International Work and Leadership Opportunities

Anna Dermenchyan, BSN, RN, CCRN-CSC

Sigma Theta Tau International 43rd Biennial Convention
Gamma Tau-at-Large Chapter, Los Angeles, CA, USA
November 9, 2015
Objectives

• Identify opportunities and barriers for international work.
• Share examples of successful medical missions.
• Impart lessons learned while traveling abroad.
Sometimes people need to go out to the world to see what’s out there before they realize what they have is the greatest.

~Jean Gima~
My Mentor
Background

• Over 6000 annual U.S. sponsored trips
• Spending is around $250 million annually
• Only few studies have analyzed the tangible impact of global medical mission trips
• **Proponents**: social responsibility of health-care professionals to address unmet needs
• **Critics**: cost-effectiveness and sustainability

Assessment

Six major factors to consider

- Cost
- Efficiency
- Impact
- Preparedness
- Education
- Sustainability

Goals

• Deliver cost-effective, close to home solution for providing health care

• Create self-sustainable mentorship programs in partnership with the local health care communities

• Empower local people
Opportunities and Barriers

• Exchange of Ideas
• Training & Education
• Various Standards
• Limited Resources
• Cultural & Language Barriers
• Practice Change
Medical Humanitarian Mission

- Provide medical care and health education for people in developing nations.
- Treat illness, disease, trauma and provide care.
- Teams educate locals and village health care providers with a goal of seeing them become self-sufficient.

http://projecthelpinghands.org
Building local capacity among rural health practitioners is critical in creating a healthier quality of life and maintaining the long-term sustainability of health services.
Rural Armenia
STT International Opportunities

Shoot for the moon, even if you miss, you will hit the stars.
~Les Brown~

Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society
3rd European Regional Conference
6th-8th June 2016
Utrecht, The Netherlands

Leadership in Nursing Scholarship, Practice and Education: how to impact nursing as a caring profession globally.

Welcome to the city of Utrecht, the Netherlands!
Volunteering Makes you a Better Leader!

- Expand perspective
- Discovery of new talents
- Honed influence
- Freedom to experiment
- A larger network
“The world is your oyster. It's up to you to find the pearls.”

~Chris Gardner~
The Pursuit of Happiness
Questions? Comments?

E-mail or find me on LinkedIn, Twitter or Facebook!

Anna Dermenchyan
adermenchyan@mednet.ucla.edu
Twitter: @ADermenchyan