Sugar, Stress, Sex, and Society: The Determinants of Children’s Health

When you think about the life of a Pediatrician, you may envision a revolving door of children with only coughs, colds, and rashes. Don’t say that to Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, the general pediatrician who uncovered the lead poisoning crisis in Flint, Michigan. By understanding what can truly impact the health of children, she perhaps saved generations from profound intellectual and socioeconomic disability. A child’s well-being depends not only upon the medical care they receive, but also their social environments. Pediatricians such as Dr. Hanna-Attisha therefore play a vital role in alleviating the negative impact of these factors on children’s health, both in the exam room and the community. In this selective, we encourage you to become active participants in these patients’ communities, learn about what affects their health, and ponder the ways to heal the next generation of at-risk children.

Through lunchtime talks with UCLA Pediatric Faculty, we will introduce you to common pediatric health challenges, including childhood obesity, domestic violence, school function/readiness, environmental health problems, and high-risk behaviors, among others. You will also participate in community site visits, or volunteer opportunities in order to see some of the existing assets in our community that are helping to address these pediatric health issues. Finally, you will have the opportunity to shadow Pediatricians at the Venice Family Clinic, a Federally-Qualified Health Center servicing low-income patients in Santa Monica and Venice. Here you'll work side-by-side with physicians and residents who work hard to combine both medical knowledge and patient advocacy to make a difference in the lives of their patients.

Objectives:
1. Recognize at least 3 of the root causes of common health issues affecting the well-being of children and families, via didactic/discussion sessions with experts (faculty, residents, community leaders).
2. Identify and describe at least 2 existing community resources benefiting the health of children.
3. Observe how clinicians incorporate the social determinants of health into their patient encounters and utilize community resources in order to provide better care for their patients.
4. Synthesize your experiences and observations, via reflection and discussion, in order to inform your approach to healthcare as a future physician.
Course Chairs: Cameron Escovedo, M.D., is a Chief Resident in Pediatrics at UCLA and a graduate of the David Geffen School of Medicine. His interests are in General Pediatrics, Medical Education, and Clinical Informatics.

Faculty Sponsor: Alma D. Guerrero, M.D., M.P.H.

Medical Student Coordinator: Christine Trinh, Anthony Bui

Student Requirements: A minimum of 4 lunchtime talks, 2 clinics, 2 community site visits or volunteer experiences, and participation in introduction and reflection sessions

Teaching Methods: Discussions, Clinical experience, & Community site visits/volunteer experiences

Enrollment: Maximum of 15 students, minimum of 5 students

Sponsoring College: Primary Care College


Location: CHS lecture halls and various clinics, mostly in the West LA area