

Peacework

Opportunities for Medical Students in Peace Promotion

—a compilation of internships,
rotations and volunteer experiences—



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Peacework:
Opportunities for Medical Students
in Peace Promotion

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Introduction

Increase the Peace!

As future physicians we are already being called on to think about how violent human behavior affects the health of individuals and of the public as a whole. Our role is a unique one. By understanding how violent tendencies develop, we are in a powerful place to help prevent its seeds from germinating in an individual or family.

By being aware of the physical and mental consequences of violence, we can better identify them and be more likely to expose and report them. Every effort we make contributes to increasing the peace within the minds of our patients and in our communities.

How to use this guide

This is a guide for medical students who are seeking opportunities in the form of rotations, internships or ongoing volunteer work to learn about violence prevention, refugee health and human rights facilitation. Please realize that this list is just a start. It is intended to inspire new ideas as well as connect you to established opportunities. If you don't find an opportunity in the location of your choice, please don't give up! Countless local organizations exist which are at your fingertips in the phone book or library.

Some of the listed opportunities have already been experienced by previous medical students, but most have not and are therefore not well-defined. You can use this lack of structure to design an experience which matches your particular interests.

What exactly do you want?

Most important to you as you begin your search is deciding specifically what you want to learn. What compels you to take action? What stirs your emotions? Is it domestic violence, gangs or nuclear war? To which questions do you continue to return? For instance, what causes violent behavior? Also think about this question: What do you need to know in order to better prevent violent injuries or human rights violations in your future practice?

The more completely you know what you want, the more help the organizations in this book will be to you—and you to them. I challenge you to do some serious soul-searching, and to take your ideas to the people who have passion for them. Engage them in ongoing discussion about how to accomplish your goals for knowledge, experience and community service.

Your feedback is essential!

Remember, this guide was written by and for medical students. We are counting on you to help us expand our guide. Please let us know what kind of peacework you have experienced by completing the feedback form at the end of this guide.

Violence Prevention

HELP Network

Children’s Memorial Medical Center
Children’s Plaza #88
Chicago, IL 60614

Contact: Kristin Peterson, Program Coordinator
(312) 880-3826
cmh-helpnet@nwu.edu

The HELP Network is the public health voice in the debate about handguns, particularly as they affect children and youth. HELP identifies the reduction of civilian access to handguns as a necessary means of prevention. We mobilize other organizations to provide speakers and lobbyists who can bring this message, and the scientific facts that underlie it, into the public debate.

Description of Internship:

Duties may include assisting with writing and layout of newsletter, coordinating monthly mailings, drafting letters to new members, using the Internet to research current legislation, assisting with revising documents and with budget writing, and networking with outside organizations. Special projects can be developed with the Network Chairperson to meet the student’s interests.

Availability:	Flexible
Ever had med students before?	No
Housing available/ Able to provide?	No

Network for Battered Lesbians and Bisexual Women

P.O. Box 6011

Boston, MA 02114

Contact: Beth Leventhal, Coordinator
(617) 424-8611

The Network provides support services, community education, and organizing around woman-to-woman domestic violence.

Description of Internship:

The duties will depend on student interest and organizational need, but could include hotline counseling, support group facilitation, community education, publications committee work and other as needed.

Availability:	Flexible
Ever had med students before?	No
Housing available?	No
Able to help find?	No
Special skills:	Additional languages valued

The Joey Fournier Services

14 Beacon Street, Suite 720
Boston, MA 02108

Contact: Karen Gotkin, Executive Director
(617) 248-0066
(617) 248-3931 (fax)

A non-profit violence prevention and victim advocacy organization, they provide violence prevention education to children and their parents. In addition, they provide support services to victims of violent crime and their families.

Description of Internship:

The objective is to provide at-risk, low-income children and their families with the skills and education needed to reduce impulsive and aggressive behavior, encourage cooperative problem-solving, and foster violence and substance abuse prevention in the community.

Students will work with an “at-risk” population within classrooms and after-school programs of Boston in an effort to curb violence and drug abuse. They will interact with children and their parents in Second Step violence prevention curriculum workshops. The curriculum consists of lessons in empathy, impulse control/problem solving and anger management. Training will be provided.

Availability:	School/after-school hrs. in academic year
Ever had students before?	Yes, undergrad
Housing available?	No
Able to help find?	No
Special skills:	Enjoy working with children, nonjudgmental/empathetic, good interpersonal skills, Spanish speaking a plus

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

P.O. Box 18749

Denver, CO 80218

Contact: Ms. Ronnie Weiss
(303) 839-1852
(303) 831-9251 (fax)
ncadv1@ix.netcom.com

NCADV serves as a clearinghouse for information, referrals, public policy, technical assistance and public awareness activities related to domestic violence on a national level.

Description of Internship:

Denver office: (1201 E. Colfax #385, Denver, CO 80218)

- research and data collection for lethal domestic violence cases
- research and compilation of information packets
- design of informational brochures
- public relations, marketing, fundraising activities
- assist with planning regional/national training and conferences
- assist with Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Washington, D.C. office (1511 K St., NW #409, Washington, D.C. 20005)

- assist with writing and disseminating legislative updates and alerts nationally
- participate in networking and coalition building around public policy issues related to domestic violence

Availability:	M-F 8:30-5:30, but flexible
Ever had students before?	Yes—social work, law
Housing available?	No
Able to help find?	Yes
Special skills:	Other languages useful for translating

Physicians for Social Responsibility

1101 Fourteenth Street, NW, Suite 700

Washington, D.C. 20005

Contact: (202) 898-0172 (fax)

PSR is a national, non-profit membership organization of over 20,000 health professionals and supporters committed to the elimination of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, the achievement of a sustainable environment and the reduction of violence and its causes.

Description of Internships:

Violence Prevention Program Internship

PSR's activities include public education about gun violence as a public health issue, support of gun control and action to prevent violence. PSR works through public education, citizen activism, Congressional outreach, media advocacy and educational publications.

The intern will assist PSR staff with preparation and production of mailings to members, maintenance of PSR's violence prevention network database, and drafting and production of fact sheets, position papers and legislative alerts for health professionals and other activists. The intern will also conduct research on PSR priority issues, and attend some Congressional briefings and hearings as needed. Responsibilities will also include administrative tasks.

Applicants must have a background and interest in violence prevention issues and PSR goals. Address correspondence to the Violence Prevention Internship Coordinator.

Nuclear Weapons Complex Internship

PSR's activities include public education about the health impacts of nuclear weapons production and testing, the social costs of the arms race, and the links between pollution and public health. PSR's programs range from citizen advocacy with Congress, speaker tours, media work and educational publications.

(Physicians for Social Responsibility, continued)

The intern will assist with PSR's project on the health impacts of nuclear weapons production and testing. This will include research, writing and monitoring Congressional legislation and federal advisory committees. In addition, responsibility for production of fact sheets, position papers and legislative alerts may also be assigned.

Applicants must have a background/interest in nuclear weapons and security issues, and related legislative policy. Address correspondence to the N.W.C. Internship Coordinator.

Availability:	40 hrs/week for a three month minimum beginning in January, June and September. (Deadline is two months before beginning.)
Ever had med students before?	Yes
Housing available?	No
Able to help find?	No
Special skills:	Excellent oral and written communication skills, ability to work independently, computer literacy, basic office skills
To Apply:	Send cover letter, resumé, writing sample and available dates to above address or fax.
Other:	These are paid positions—\$200/week stipend.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America

230 North 13th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Contact: National office (215) 567-7000 or look in
your phone book for the nearest local agency

The mission of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America (BB/BS) is to make a positive difference in the lives of children and youth, primarily through a professionally-supported one-to-one relationship with a caring adult, and to assist them in becoming confident, competent and caring individuals as they grow to their highest potential by providing committed volunteers, national leadership and standards of excellence.

Description of Volunteer Opportunity:

Volunteers are matched as big brothers and big sisters with the youth from their community who are in need of special attention. Volunteers act as mentors and friends, involving the children in new activities, places and ideas, and by providing a consistent presence in their lives.

Availability:	Volunteers are always needed, and duration is ongoing.
Ever had students before?	College students have played a valuable volunteer role.
Housing available?	N/A
Able to help find?	Volunteering with BB/BS is done in your own community.
Special skills:	Love for children, commitment and a willingness to have fun

Wood County Gang Task Force/Youth Violence Prevention Program

Wood County Prosecuting Attorney
1 Courthouse Square
Bowling Green, OH 43402

Contact: Phillip J. Titterington, Director
(419) 354-9250
(419) 353-2904 (fax)
wcgtf@wcnet.org

The W.C.G.T.F./Youth Violence Prevention Program is a local program serving the immediate community and working out of the county prosecutor's office.

Description of Internship:

The student would act as an assistant to the program with the following duties:

- assist in 45 (Students Seeking Safe Solutions) student mediation/conflict resolution programs
- collect information and file on computer
- assist with writing newsletters
- attend law enforcement meetings
- have one-on-one discussions with youth and family
- work with GOALS (Gang Opposition through Awareness, Leadership and Self-esteem Program), and ACHIEVE (Area Citizens Helping In Eliminating Violence through Education)

Availability:	8:30-4:30 M-F
Ever had med students before?	Other students
Housing available?	No
Able to help find?	Maybe
Special skills:	Will work with computer-windows/ word perfect (easy to learn)

National SAFE KIDS Campaign

1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 1000

Washington, DC 20004

Contact: Genny O'Donnell
(202) 662-0600

This is a nonprofit advocacy organization with more than 210 state and local coalitions dedicated to the prevention of unintentional injury.

Description of Internship:

The student would work on various projects depending on interests, current activities and funding. There are four departments in which the student could work: public policy, communications, field and program.

Availability:	Variable
Ever had med students before?	Yes
Housing available?	No

Physicians for a Violence-Free Society

P.O. Box 35528

Dallas, TX 75235-0528

Contact: Jo An Dwyer, Associate Executive Director
(214) 590-8807

This is an educational non-profit organization with a focus on educating physicians and allied health care professionals to put violence prevention into the practice of medicine.

Description of Internship:

1. Set up resource library including information on different forms of violence.
2. Learn and teach conflict resolution and non-violent techniques.
3. Design and implement training courses in violence prevention (including slide presentations and handbooks).

Availability:	Year-round
Ever had med students before?	Yes
Housing available?	No
Able to help find?	Yes
Special skills needed?	Computer, communication, organizational and writing skills and experience in health education would be helpful.

Handgun Control, Inc.

1225 Eye Street, NW, Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005

Contact: Yoshi Takeda, Outreach Coordinator
(202) 898-0792/ (202) 371-9615 fax

This is a national non-profit organization dedicated to reducing gun violence by enacting a sensible gun control policy.

Description of Internship:

Interns can design individual projects with the coordinators of the following programs:

- Federal legislation
- State legislation
- Community outreach
- Voter education fund
- Media relations
- Law enforcement
- Youth education
- Public health outreach
- Legal action project
- Research
- Entertainment resources

Availability:	Year-round
Ever had med students before?	Yes, through an AMSA fellowship
Housing available?	No

Refugee Health

Bureau of Refugee Services

1200 University Ave., Suite D
Des Moines, IA 50310

Contact: Wayne Johnson, Bureau Chief
(515) 283-7904
(515) 283-9160 (fax)

This is a state agency that resettles and provides employment and social services to legally admitted refugees in Iowa.

Description of Internship:

Sudanese Nutrition Project

The intern will assist Sudanese mothers in learning shopping and food preparation with the goal of enabling them to provide more balanced nutritional and economical meals to their families. This would include training to allow the women to eventually go into their own community to provide this education. This will be done via an interpreter.

Availability:	As arranged, duration indefinite
Ever had med students before?	No, but other interns
Housing available?	No
Able to help find?	Yes
Special skills:	None required, but patience and flexibility are needed.
Other:	The two previous interns have found this to be very rewarding.

Alliance for African Assistance

3148 University Avenue
San Diego, CA 92104

Contact: Walter Lam, Executive Director
(619) 282-2318
(619)282-4235 (fax)

Alliance for African Assistance was founded in 1989 to assist refugees from around the world. Assistance is provided with resettlement, immigration, counseling, cultural education, job training, placement and protection of human rights.

Description of Internship:

Community Outreach Specialist

1. To increase access to health and human care system through proactive services such as information, referral and advocacy.
2. To reduce health risk among the refugees through health education.
3. To introduce and coordinate health care and social services that tend to be underutilized by refugee groups, largely because they are unknown or difficult to access.

Availability:	Always, duration ongoing
Ever had med students before?	No
Housing available?	No
Able to help find?	Yes
Special skills:	Third world experience may be helpful but not necessary.

African Services Committee, Inc.

28 E. 35th Street
New York, NY 10016

Contact: Kim Nichols, AIDS Program Director
(212) 683-5019
(212) 779-2862 (fax)
africanserve@worldnet.att.net

This is a 15-year-old non-profit organization serving African, Caribbean, Middle Eastern and Bosnian refugees and immigrants. They provide assistance with employment, housing, immigration issues, health education, screening, HIV/STD/TB risk reduction, case management and medical interpretation.

Description of Internship:

HIV/STD/TB Prevention Internship Responsibilities may include research (behavioral, epidemiological), outreach, behavioral risk assessment, risk reduction counseling and data collection and analysis.

Availability:	Fall or spring, 3-month duration
Ever had med students before?	Yes
Housing available?	No
Able to help find?	Yes
Special Skills:	French, Arabic, African languages helpful

Human Rights Facilitation

Physicians for Human Rights

100 Boylston Street, Suite 702
Boston, MA 02116

Contact: Kari Hannibal, Membership/Education Coordinator
(617) 695-0041
(617)695-0307 (fax)
phrusa@igc.apc.org

An organization of health professionals, scientists and concerned citizens that uses the skills of the health professions to investigate and prevent violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.

Description of Internship:

Interns assist staff at either the Boston or San Francisco offices in the research of human rights violations in particular countries and in organizing campaigns on select human rights issues, such as landmines or physician participation in the death penalty. All interns are assigned a geographic area to monitor for individual violations of human rights and help draft letters to governments to protest such violations. Interns may also research selected human rights issues where medicine and law intersect.

Availability:

Applications accepted year-round for internships beginning in fall, spring and summer, minimum duration of two months, minimum eight hrs/wk.

Ever had med students before?

Yes

Housing available?

No

Able to help find?

No

Special Skills:

Any foreign language, ability to type own work, skill in handling multiple tasks, basic computer

To Apply:

Submit resumé, cover letter indicating interest and relevant skills and writing sample.

International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War

126 Rogers Street
Cambridge, MA 02142

Contact: Brett Feldman, Program Assistant
(617) 868-5050
(617) 868-2560 (fax)
ippnwbos@igc.apc.org

IPPNW is a global federation dedicated to safe-guarding public health through the prevention of war.

Description of Internship:

Responsibilities will be determined individually. Possibilities include research, activism, desktop publishing, coordination of communication of student groups within the U.S. and throughout the world, organization of events and meetings. In the past, interns have planned world student meetings in the Philippines and Worcester, Massachusetts, and were responsible at these events.

Availability:	Flexible
Ever had students before?	Yes
Housing Available	No
Able to help find?	Maybe
Special Skills:	Electronic communication, passion, international familiarity, any language
Other:	Funding is low right now—can join as a student member through Physicians for Social Responsibility.

Doctors for Global Health

Box 1761

Decatur, GA 30031

Contact: Dr. Lanny Smith
(404) 377-3566(tel/fax)
ccs-dgh@ix.netcom.com

Description of Internship:

This rotation will take place in El Salvador and is not a vacation. It is hard work, it involves “entrega” and accompaniment of the Salvadoran people. Anyone who is thinking of coming without expecting to do hard, and not necessarily glamorous, work with no weekends off, is trying to come to the wrong place and would be disappointed. It can be dangerous because life here can be dangerous. It has been seen universally by past volunteers as fulfilling and instructive, even “life-changing.”

The idea is for this to be an experience in which the student both learns and gives to the communities. In the best of cases the student has begun this process long before arriving, so that the actual time in El Salvador as a phase has been anticipated with actual giving (collection of medical equipment or books, review of medical resources for the same, etc.), and the return from physical presence in El Salvador does not imply isolation from the experience, but rather another part of it (including presentations in the student’s home and /or medical school community, continued help with projects, teaching human rights in elementary schools, etc.).

All students will be expected to have read and be familiar with *Where There is No Doctor* and *Helping Health Care Workers Learn* by David Werner. *Where There is No Doctor* is available from the AMSA Resource Center for \$15 for AMSA members and \$20 for non-members. Call (703) 620-6600, ext. 217, to purchase. Both books can be purchased from The Hesperian Foundation, 2796 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA 94306, (415) 325-9017.

(Doctors for Global Health, continued)

- Availability: Generally, the longer a student can come the better. Some come for a year, but on average they come for three months. For shorter periods of time, prior and post volunteer work with DGH is essential to have more than a sporadic experience.
- Ever had med students before? Yes—there is intense competition for the few positions offered here. However, by applying you might open the door to another opportunity even if not selected.
- Housing: Must pay for room and board (about \$200/month).
- Special Skills: Conversational Spanish is essential.
- Other: Students must pay their airfare and have health insurance.

To Apply: Submit a letter demonstrating how you think this experience will affect your future medical career, prior experience working or volunteering with a marginalized population (not essential), and your understanding of the social reality in El Salvador over the past 15 years, especially where relations with the US are concerned (suggested reading: *Witness to War* by Charlie Clements; *El Mozote* by Mark Danner; *Revolution in El Salvador* by Tommie Sue Montgomery).

All applications must be sent to the above address with as much anticipation as possible—remember, there are many applications and relatively few available places. However, having applied and received notice that the application is under review, patience is essential.

Peacework Evaluation Form

Did you make contact with any of the individuals listed here? If yes, who did you make contact with and what was your experience?

Did you spend time with any of the organizations listed here? Tell us about it! Should it continue to be listed? Any tips you want to pass along?

Have you discovered other people or organizations that can help medical students learn about promoting peace in a health-care context? Please provide phone numbers/email addresses so we can contact them.

Send this to AMSA, 1902 Association Drive, Reston, VA 20191-1502
Attention: Health Through Peace or email to <amsatf@www.amsa.org>.
Attach additional sheet(s) if necessary.