

UNAI MEMBER ACTIVITY REPORT 2016/2017

American University of Antigua College of Medicine

Antigua and Barbuda

During the 2016/2017 reporting period, American University of Antigua College of Medicine undertook a number of activities that underscore its commitment to UNAI and its principles. The following examples stand out as particularly noteworthy:

Principle: Education For All

American University of Antigua (AUA) College of Medicine's Emergency Medicine Training Centre (EMTC) continues to promote global health around the world by providing intensive training sessions for first responders. In December, the EMTC returned to India to train more than 150 police officers in Calcutta in CPR, bandaging, and moving accident victims at the 11th annual Global Healthcare Summit. The event was organized by the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI), AUA, and the American Heart Association and took place at KPC Medical College and Hospital. "The training was aimed at decreasing the number of deaths, especially from road accidents, by enabling first responders to provide life support to accident victims and ensure the latter don't succumb to their injuries and trauma before reaching a hospital," said AUA's EMTC Director, Vernon Solomon. Last year, more than 400 people were killed in road accidents in Calcutta according to police data.



The EMTC held a First Aid and CPR course for first responders in April 2016 and for Junior Doctors in December 2016 in Udaipur. In the time since the inaugural training, the university's EMTC has become an official National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) Training Center, bringing it to the forefront of both international and national discussions and initiatives that have a significant impact on the EMS profession. AAPI Advisor Anwar Feroz said he hopes the EMTC can set up training centers for basic CPR and BLS throughout India. AUA has expressed a willingness in providing a national training program if the opportunity presents itself.

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Principle: Global Citizenship

AUA alumnus Dr. Pedro Torres established a non-profit that provides medical aid during epidemics and natural disasters. The organization, Community Health Alliance of Medical Professionals (CHAMPS), recently mobilized to treat victims of Hurricane Maria in Vieques, Puerto Rico, a remote island decimated by the storm. Dr. Torres and three other AUA alumni organized the event with a local Puerto Rican nonprofit to treat nearly 8,000 Vieques residents. CHAMPS is a “virtual database for volunteers,” where organizations in need of assistance can access the database and request help from his nonprofit. The organization is not limited to medical professionals only. Psycho-social professionals, firefighters, music therapists and a host of other professionals important in bringing healing during disasters have joined CHAMPS. “There are only two physicians on the island, and patients that need things like dialysis have to travel to other islands to get it,” AUA alumnus Dr. Kirill Alekseyev said. “It is extremely important for people to go on trips like this one. People in Vieques have no insurance, can't afford medical care or simply don't have access to doctors.”

Principle: Access to Higher Education

Supporting the UNAI principle Education for All, a commitment to educational opportunity for all people regardless of gender, race, religion or ethnicity, AUA student Jason Osei authored and published a byline in a US publication on the importance of Black doctors. His article on Medscape, “We Need More Black Med Students and Supportive Institutions” advocates for educational intuitions to think differently in the admissions process to ensure a more diverse student body.

"At American University of Antigua (AUA) College of Medicine, admissions decisions are not based exclusively on test scores because the university recognizes that these scores aren't indicative of one's potential to become a highly skilled, compassionate physician. Instead, every facet of the applicant's character and motivation are considered. In doing so, AUA ensures a more diverse student body that is prepared to go back into the community and provide the highest standard of care. In fact, the university has made a concerted effort to recruit students from historically black colleges and universities. Some of its graduates have become residents at those schools. More schools need to adopt this progressive approach."

International Women's Day (8 March)

American University of Antigua (AUA) College of Medicine celebrated female doctors and healthcare professionals for International Women's Day through a social media campaign. We created and shared 21 posts across Twitter, Facebook and Instagram for the celebratory day and Women's History Month to initiate a dialogue on the importance of women in medicine. AUA alumna Dr. Jasmine Marcelin spoke on the importance of black, female doctors on an-hour long Sirius XM radio show with two other female doctors.

Link: www.auamed.org

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