About Tropical Dermatology: A Syndrome-Based Approach

Course Goals

At the conclusion of this course, the learner will be able to:

- Recognize infectious and non-infectious skin diseases that affect persons in low to middle income countries and mobile populations such as refugees, immigrants, and travelers
- Formulate differential diagnosis of these skin diseases based on clinical presentation
- Explain the utility of bedside diagnostic tests in dermatology to support a diagnosis

Intended audience

The proposed audience includes:

- Primary care clinicians working in resource-limited settings and/or with mobile human populations
- Dermatology trainees including residents and fellows planning rotations abroad
- Dermatologists planning to work in resource-limited settings

About the Instructors

Alexia P. Knapp, MD

Alexia Knapp, MD, MS, CTropMed is a board-certified dermatologist at HealthPartners Medical Group and Core Faculty in the University of Minnesota (UMN) Global Medicine Pathway. As a medical student, she fell in love with dermatology and infectious diseases and wanted to craft a career where she could combine the two specialties, travel the world, serve others, and teach. As a UMN Global Medicine Pathway core faculty member, she teaches in the live Global Health course. In her clinic in St. Paul, MN she sees refugees, immigrants and returned travelers with skin diseases. Since 2015 she has supported a dermatology training program in Mbarara, Uganda and is the current project director for Health Volunteers Overseas Uganda Dermatology Project. Since 2017, she has worked with UMN/International Organization for Migration (The UN Migration Agency) collaboration training IOM panel physicians regarding skin diseases in US-bound refugees. She is also a telemedicine consultant for MSF/Doctors Without Borders, supporting colleagues practicing in humanitarian crises.

Karolyn A. Wanat, MD

Karolyn (Kari) Wanat, MD, CTropMed is a dermatologist, originally from Wisconsin who completed medical school at Washington University in St. Louis, followed by dermatology and dermatopathology training at University of Pennsylvania and the Gorgas Course in Tropical Medicine in Peru. She currently is on faculty at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. She is extremely passionate about increasing access to dermatology care to those underserved populations both locally and abroad, which has driven her desire to work in global health. She has experience in Africa (Botswana, Niger, Tanzania) and in South America. She loves meeting new people and forming relationships with local providers and patients to help serve their needs, and she learns so much from these partnerships.

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