GLOBAL COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL: PROGRAMS AND POLICIES

PHEL 0581J
ROOM 306 SPH BUILDING - PISCATAWAY
FALL SEMESTER 2007 – Thursday Evenings 6:15 to 9

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An overview of critical topics related to the identification, control and prevention of newly emerging infectious diseases as well as long recognized ones of public health importance. The emphasis will be upon major infections that are prevalent in tropical and developing countries. Their clinical presentation, modes of transmission, geographic distribution and prevention will be considered from an epidemiologic perspective. Selected global disease control programs and policies will be assessed for their strengths and weaknesses.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: To describe and analyze programmatic approaches for controlling communicable diseases associated with major mortality or morbidity primarily in the developing world. Furthermore, students will critically examine contrasting visions of international health interventional initiatives via evaluation of cases studies for strengths and weaknesses.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Attendance and active participation in weekly seminars; students will develop a research paper based upon an assigned case study. A 45 minute in class presentation of the student’s topic by the student to be followed by class discussion. Presentations will be during the second half of the semester, as assigned. A final paper on the student’s topic is due the last week of class. Additionally, there will be a weekly class review of the CDC publication “Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report” for relevant international health developments. Each student will be a discussion leader one week.

FACULTY

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READINGS

1) Global Disease Elimination and Eradication as Public Health Strategies
   www.cdc.gov/epo/mmwr/pdf/other/mm48su01.pdf

2) Center for Global Development (The Case Studies)
   www.cgdev.org/section/initiatives/_active/millionssaved/studies/

3) Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports (CDC)
   www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwr_wk.html

4) “The Coming Plague” – Laurie Garret

5 “Refugee Health” – Doctors without Borders

SCHEDULE:

Sept. 6: Introduction – Part 1
Sept. 13: No class
Sept. 20: Smallpox Eradication (a success) and Malaria (a relative failure)
Sept. 27: Historical Perspective of Eradication Programs (Yellow Fever and Yaws)
Oct. 4: Communicable Diseases in Refugee Settings (?)
Oct. 11: Program Status Reports: (Neonatal Tetanus, Urban Rabies, Filariasis)
Oct. 18: Intestinal infections in the tropics

CASE STUDIES PRESENTATIONS:

Oct. 25: #7 – Controlling Onchocerciasis in sub-Saharan Africa
          #10- Controlling Trachoma in Morocco

Nov. 1: #20- Preventing Hib Disease in Chile and the Gambia
        #1 - Eradicating Smallpox
Nov. 8:  #5 – Eliminating Polio in Latin America and the Caribbean
        #17 - Eliminating Measles in Southern Africa

Nov. 15: #11 - Reducing Guinea Worm in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa
           #12 - Controlling Chagas Disease in South America

Nov. 20: (NOTE: TUESDAY)
           #2 – Preventing HIV and STD’s in Thailand
           #3 – Controlling Tuberculosis in China

Nov. 29:  #6 – Saving Mothers’ Lives in Sri Lanka
           #9 – Improving the Health of the Poor in Mexico

Dec. 6:   Final Papers Due
           Wrap-up