

2007-N-01

CIO Name: National Center for Preparedness, Detection, and Control of Infectious Diseases (proposed)

Project Title: Travel Medicine Educational Tools for Medical Students and Health Care Professionals

Project Description: The Institute of Medicine in its 2003 Report 'Microbial Threats to Health: Emergence Detection and Response' cited international travel, human behaviors and demographics as major risk factors for the emergence of infectious diseases. In the United States, resident outbound travel has increased from less than 52 million visits in 1995 to over 63.5 million in 2005, with over 29% of 2005 visits to countries other than Canada and Mexico.¹ Providing pre-travel health information to travelers and providing appropriate referrals to specialists in travel medicine can help to increase prevention of illness and injury while traveling. However, studies have shown that the majority of travelers from the U.S. and other countries do not seek pre-travel health advice, and of those who do seek pre-travel health advice, a slightly greater portion report seeking this information from their general practitioner or family doctor.²⁻⁴ Therefore, as more people travel and individuals travel more frequently, incorporating basic travel medicine principles into the education of all physicians becomes increasingly important. In addition, a basic understanding of common diseases associated with international travel (particularly infectious diseases) and recognizing their associated symptoms and syndromes is important in thorough and timely patient care.

Currently, there is no existing general curriculum focused on travel medicine available for medical schools to incorporate into their academic programs. The purpose of this project is to develop this type of medical school module. An additional objective of this project is to reach primary health care professionals currently in practice by providing an online training course to increase basic knowledge of travel medicine principles and identify resources such as the CDC Travelers' Health web page and *Health Information for International Travel*. Enhancing the knowledge base of future and practicing clinicians regarding preventive measures for international travelers can not only reduce the threat of infectious disease to the individual traveler, it can also reduce the likelihood of introduction of communicable diseases to human populations via infected travelers and prevent translocation of disease.

1. U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, Office of Travel and Tourism Industries [published data on the Internet]. U.S. Resident Travel to Canada, Mexico and Overseas Countries Historical Visitation Outbound: 1995 - 2005. 2006 Sept [cited 2006 Nov28].
2. Hamer DH, Connor BA. Travel Health Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices among United States Travelers. J Travel Med 2004; 11:23-26.
3. Van Herck K, Castelli F, Zuckerman J, et al. Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices in Travel-related Infectious Diseases: The European Airport Survey. J Travel Med 2004; 11:3-8.
4. Wilder-Smith A, Khairullah NS, Song J-H, Chen C-Y, Torresi J. Travel Health Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices among Australasian Travelers. J Travel Med 2004; 11:9-15.

Awardee Activities:

- Design an educational module for medical schools to incorporate into their clinical curriculum, using appropriate adult learning theories and evidence-based learning methods.
- Develop an online version of the educational module with key concepts of travel medicine for self-study by health care professionals (which would meet CME requirements), using appropriate adult learning theories and evidence-based learning methods.
- Develop plans for an evaluation process of the two products in which each may be assessed after implementation module and online training product by which each may be assessed after implementation, including pre- and post-training assessments.
- The Awardee, in conjunction with CDC, will communicate regularly with the CDC Project Officer to ensure coordination and implementation of project activities.
- The Awardee and CDC Project Officer will work together to establish goals, develop educational objectives and key content areas for educational materials, determine dissemination and implementation plan, and evaluate project progress.

CDC Activities:

- Appoint a CDC Project Officer to be a liaison to Awardee.
- CDC Project Officer, in conjunction with Awardee, will communicate regularly with the Awardee to ensure coordination and implementation of project activities.

- The CDC Project Officer and Awardee will work together to establish goals, develop educational objectives and key content areas for educational materials, determine dissemination and implementation plan, and evaluate project progress.
- Provide assistance with design of educational materials, dissemination, and implementation of online training materials.
- Provide technical advice about content concerning vaccines, diseases, and travel health related information.

Special Requirements: Applicants should demonstrate a strong background in developing healthcare training/educational materials. Applicants should describe past products of healthcare training/educational content and list where these products are available for review, if possible. Applicants should also indicate that at least one member of the project staff demonstrates an expertise in travel medicine.

Funding Preferences: None

Additional Review Criteria: None

Other Information: Helpful information about travel medicine can be found at the following websites: CDC Travelers' Health -- www.cdc.gov/travel (including the online version of *Health Information for International Travel*), the World Health Organization -- www.who.int/en/, the International Society of Travel Medicine (ISTM) -- www.istm.org (including the recently updated body of knowledge in travel medicine), and the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene -- www.astmh.org.

Project Period Length: No more than 2 years

Approximate Total Project Period Funding: \$40,000 (This amount is an estimate, and is subject to availability of funds and **includes direct and indirect costs, excluding the additional academic partner administrative costs**).

Approximate Average Award: \$20,000 (This amount is for the first 12-month budget period, and **includes both direct and indirect costs, excluding the additional academic partner administrative costs**).

Approximate Number of Awards: 1

Specify whether this PEP is for Research or Non-Research projects: Non-Research