Cross-cultural training in tuberculosis surveillance and control in Cuba

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INTRODUCTION

Implemented in 1963, the Cuban National Tuberculosis Control Program has served as an integral component for tuberculosis (TB) control in the primary health care system.

Community-based family physician-nurse consults and polyclinics aid in the identification of suspected TB patients for prompt diagnosis and management.

As a low TB burden country, national TB control strategies – albeit limited resources and universal health coverage unique to Cuba – can be highlighted and adapted to strengthen global TB control efforts.

PURPOSE

To describe a cross-cultural training at the Pedro Kouri Institute of Tropical Medicine (IPK) and federal institutions to learn about clinical and epidemiological strategies toward TB eradication efforts in Cuba.

CROSS-CULTURAL TRAINING

In May 2015, rotations in TB epidemiology, laboratory, clinical medicine and community health were completed in the Spanish language at IPK and public health institutions in the Havana municipality.

Utilized educational strategies included one-on-one tutorials, small and large group discussions, and site visits.

OUTCOMES

In-depth training sessions with Cuban experts were organized at multiple health institutions in the Havana municipality. All experts demonstrated passion, enthusiasm and talent in academic tutorials and dialogue.

A collaborative manuscript was submitted for journal peer-review.

IMPLICATIONS

This three-week cross-cultural training in Cuba facilitated academic learning and exchanges for continuing education about TB control.

Building long-term collaborations between the University of Florida and IPK, in TB epidemiology, diagnostics, prevention and control, can contribute toward reducing TB incidence and improving health of citizens in Florida and the Caribbean.

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