



All Things Ignatian



Project CURA - CURA Personalis in Action

A Creighton University School of Medicine Student Run International Medical Service Program

What is Project CURA?

Dr. Kumar Desai founded Project CURA in 2001 as a first year medical student, to practically apply Creighton's Jesuit ideals through international medical service. Over the past ten years, hundreds of CUSOM medical students have provided education, service, and medical assistance in underserved communities at home and internationally. This past year, seventy students spent part of their summer abroad utilizing their skills and compassion to better the lives of the people they worked with, as well as expanding the depth of their own cultural sensitivity.

The Foundations of Project CURA

- **Simple Living** - To become aware of the choices that the poor are forced to make as we as students consciously journey with them.
- **Cultural Sensitivity** - To immerse ourselves in a community with values and ideas different from those we are accustomed to, and to provide the utmost respect of those we serve.
- **Service and Community** - To live together as members of the community and to embody cura personalis to those we encounter.

Action in our Community

- **Pine Ridge, SD** - The Pine Ridge trip focuses on learning the history and culture of the Lakota Sioux Native Americans. Students experience a traditional sweat lodge ceremony, various cultural speakers and visits to important Lakota historical sites. Activities include mentoring at local schools and learning about the reservation, as well as spending time at the hospital.
- **Omaha School Program** - At local Omaha elementary and middle schools CURA participants raise awareness about global and local issues through public health presentations.
- **Savor the Flavor Silent Auction** - Savor the Flavor not only serves as the program's fundraising event, but also as awareness for Project CURA within the Creighton and Omaha communities.



CUSOM students serving at Saboba Medical Clinic in Ghana (pictured here with village chief)

Caring on a Global Scale

India - The CURA India group starts their trip volunteering at The Mother Theresa House in Calcutta, caring for the injured and handicapped. The group then travels to Delhi to assist surgeons at the Apollo hospital. Students also have the opportunity to shadow ophthalmic surgeons and set up pediatric health camps, treating nearly 300 children.

Romania - Students travel to small villages to hold held health clinics for the local villagers, including hygiene workshops for the kids and breast clinics for women. In the larger cities students tour hospitals, and have the opportunity to shadow physicians and learn about Romanian healthcare.

Nicaragua - In Managua, students work with the ATRAVES organization to serve patients. Working with Nicaraguan physicians students see hundreds of patients in a few weeks. Students also work to dispense medications in the pharmacy, and serve in the schools teaching English and general health classes.

Peru - In Cusco, students volunteer at a local orphanage, an elder home, and in various regional clinics throughout the city to serve the homeless and impoverished populations. Students also travel to rural Urubamba, and work alongside local clinicians to set up medical clinics at a children's home and orphanage.

Ghana - Students volunteer in the northern province at the Saboba Medical Centre, where they provide medical services at the hospital as well as going on public outreaches to administer pediatric vaccines. Students also spend time visiting different villages and orphanages to deliver medical donations.

Southeast Asia: The Philippines, Indonesia, and Cambodia - In the Philippines, students work in medical clinics set up in community centers. These clinics provided free medical care, treatment, and medication to local children and adults. In Indonesia, students work in mobile clinics and a tuberculosis center to deliver care to the underserved. In Cambodia, students travel to a rural village near Kampot where they assist on public health projects, work on a community health assessment, volunteer at local schools, and visit with community members to learn about village life.



Student providing vaccines in Peru

Student volunteering at an orphanage in India

Sponsored by the Creighton University Jesuit Community, in association with the Deglman Center for Ignatian Spirituality.