

Thailand Clinical Immersion 2019

Mahidol University: Bangkok, Thailand

University of Michigan Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Program

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Course: N611 Clinical Practicum

City/Country

- Thailand population: 69.1 million
- Area: 513,115 sq km (198,115 sq miles)
- Religion: Buddhism
- Official Language: Thai
 - Average income/month/per capita: 14,048.44 Baht/month (\$450/month)

Other Important Background

- Siriraj Hospital in Bangkok is the oldest and largest hospital in the country holding 2,300 beds
- Women life expectancy 79 years, Men 71 years
- Universal health care under 3 main insurance schemes



Experience

Our team experienced a clinical immersion at the Trauma Emergency Department, the Trauma Intensive Care Unit, and the Trauma Ward at Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University. We also went to Rayong province, a more affluent and industrialized region, and toured its hospital along with Mahidol University graduate students.

Purpose of Trip:

To get culturally immersed while completing AGACNP clinical hours in the trauma department at Thailand's largest and oldest hospital.

Outcomes

We assessed and diagnosed patients in the trauma department with the support of Thai clinical faculty. We provided recommendations for treatment with our clinical faculty support Dr. Blush. We discussed plans of care with the interprofessional team including trauma faculty MDs, fellows, chief residents, and nursing staff. We formally presented the Nurse Practitioner role and the DNP aspect to Mahidol University faculty and students.

Skills Utilized/Developed

Cultural humility; Interprofessional collaboration

A deeper understanding of global health issues, such as infectious diseases (Abx can be purchased without Rx), human trafficking (discussion with Thai nursing council director), as well as different health care delivery modes (Thailand has Universal Healthcare), and ethical principles (such as utilitarianism).

Classroom Connections

All Graduate Nursing courses have prepared us for this experience, especially Pharmacotherapeutics (P620, P621), Advanced Health Assessment (N503), and AGACNP theory courses (N573, N575), as well as the Interprofessional Education course (HS505).

Lessons Learned

Our group became like an extended family during this trip, as we heavily relied on each other for support.



Career Connections

This experience allowed us as APRNs to gain a deeper understanding of providing culturally sensitive care to our patients, while also considering social and practical aspects of delivering care.

Advice

- Be flexible and adaptive.
- Understand that you will have positive and negative emotions throughout the trip. Lean on each other for support or use Office of Global Affairs advice.
- Take care of yourself throughout the trip and acknowledge your needs in order to prevent becoming overwhelmed with unexpected emotions while being far away from home. Have fun!

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