



Frequently Asked Questions about Volunteering with DMM

Who can come?

Dermatologists. This program is “hands-on” surgical dermatology and medical dermatology. Physicians should be board-certified in dermatology. We have opportunities for both medical dermatologists and Mohs surgeons. We welcome both those in private-practice and those in academic groups.

Why do we do this?

Our work honors the legacy of Dr Albert Schweitzer. More than one hundred years ago, on the eve of World War I, Dr. Schweitzer founded the Hôpital Albert Schweitzer in French Colonial Africa (today the country of Gabon). Many of his patients had dermatology conditions and he created a colony for leprosy patients. The paradigm of a physician traveling to the developing world was largely introduced by Dr. Schweitzer who was recognized by the Nobel Peace Prize committee in 1953. The 21st century concept of Global Health *Equity* is largely due to his approach of caring for the needy in a manner that is based on dignity and respect. Dr Strasswimmer regularly lectures about the life and legacy of Dr Schweitzer.

What does DMM do in Grenada?

Dermatology Global Health Equity. DMM strives to have an ongoing, regular role in the care of our patients in Grenada. This includes:

- Excisions of cutaneous tumors
- Biopsies of complex dermatology conditions
- Consultation with local physicians
- Teaching procedural and medical care skills
- Collaboration with the Grenada Ministry of Health “National Limb Preservation Program”. This program aims to reduce the need for below-the-knee amputation of Grenadian patients with foot ulcers resulting from diabetic foot disease. We aim to collaborate with other specialists to improve the situation of diabetic foot disease in Grenada.
- Dermatology Global Health Research. We collaborate with the WINDREF foundation Grenada to understand the dermatology needs of people in the Caribbean and identify best practices.

I’m a dermatology resident or Mohs surgery fellow. Can I come?

Yes. We encourage our future generation of dermatologists to participate. The work time will usually not be credited as part of your ACGME requirements. However, past residents have participated in research and publications.

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I'm a medical student. Can I come?

Yes. We actively plan to include medical student and dermatology residents. It is not practical for us to bring pre-med (undergraduate) students or allied health professionals (NP, PA) unless they are actively practicing dermatology. We welcome medical students interested in any aspect fo global health.

Can my family come?

No. This is an intense work-focused project. We do no have activities for non-dermatologists

What is the daily schedule?

Rather than be a “parachute program” with one annual week-long program, we aim for more frequent participation. The programs is therefore designed to be short and intense. This permits working dermatologist to have a “long weekend” medical mission experience while maintaining their own practice responsibilities at home.

- Wednesday: Fly to Grenada; evening welcome dinner with the local collaborators
- Thursday: Excisions in Grand Anse Medical Center clinic.
- Friday., Consultations and biopsies at Grenada General Hospital clinic These are cases with complex dermatology patients to help with diagnosis and management. Some diagnoses have included HTLV-1, lupus, CTCL, tumors, and leprosy.
- Saturday: depending on the local needs, patient consultations at outlying clinic; follow up with other collaborative projects National Limb Preservation Program (diabetic foot ulcer) and “ Healthy Skin Head to Toe “
- Sunday: meet with other collaborators; late afternoon flight back to the USA

What does it cost?

We have generous support to cover the cost of treating patients in clinics, including funds for equipment and supplies. Dermatologists pay for their own flights, local lodging, and meals. We usually are able to secure a discount at one of the hotels.. DMM arranges most local travel including group transportation to/from airport and clinics. If we fly to Carriacou (one of the outer islands of Grenada) this is done as a chartered flight. We usually have scholarships for residents and Mohs surgery fellows who come.

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Whom do we treat in Grenada?

Local Grenadian citizens. We do not treat expats, tourists, medical students, or others who are in Grenada for work or pleasure. Our service is to the people of Grenada in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. Local dermatologists screen needy patients ahead of time. This ensures that we see mostly patients with very complex medical dermatology conditions or those in need of surgical dermatology services. Most excisions are done in an outpatient clinic setting. For unusual case, we can use the operating rooms of the general hospital in St George's

Can I get involved in research or publications?

Yes. With our local collaborators, we conduct research and write publications in order to identify the needs of the populations we treat, to demonstrate to others what we learn, and to develop best practices

What do I need to get involved?

Please submit a letter of intent , outlining pat medical volunteer work. Please include a recent cv and a letter of support from your program director (for students, residents and fellows) or from a dermatology colleague.

What do I bring?

DMM provides all of the supplies to patient care. In general, you bring your own PPE (masks, disposable gloves, eye protection). You must review current safety advice and travel advisories from the CDC and the US State Department websites for travel advice and warnings. DMM missions to Grenada have coincided with mosquito-born disease outbreaks including outbreaks of Dengue fever, Chickungunya, and Zika.

How is the work of DMM supported?

Individuals: Generous individual donors and family foundations support the work

Organizations: We have received very generous support from the Fondation Laroche-Posay USA (L'Oreal), the Safe Sun Foundation, the American Academy of Dermatology, and Rotary International.

We look forward to hearing from you.