

2009  
*Summer Fellowship  
Program*

*The Department of Medical Humanities  
is pleased to announce this year's fellowship recipients:*

The goal of the Department of Medical Humanities Fellowship program is to stimulate interest in ethical, cultural, aesthetic, and social dimensions of health, disease, and healing by inviting first year medical students to develop and submit original proposals relating to humanities and medicine. Students may work on projects in North Carolina, or they may use the Fellowship as an opportunity to do a project elsewhere in the United States or abroad. Proposals are awarded on a competitive basis. Student Fellows have the summer between their 1st and 2nd year to develop and complete their Fellowship. At the conclusion of their projects, Fellows submit a paper, or other appropriate artifact, and give a public presentation. The Department of Medical Humanities is pleased to be offering this Fellowship in collaboration with the Brody Summer Scholars Program.

Past recipients include:

Rebecca Keener and Joshua McKinnon for their joint project, "Native Views of Illness Among the Cabecars of Costa Rica." (2007)

Senthuran Ravindran, "Advance Care Planning: North Carolina 2005" video. (2008)

Ying Zhang, "Cultural/Societal Aspects of Breast Cancer-Illness, Reporting, Treatment, and Prevention: A Cross-Cultural Study of Breast Cancer Patients in Sichuan, China and Greenville, North Carolina." (2008)

Victoria Elliot, "The Role of the Partera in Rural Honduras." (2008)

**"Coping with Sickle Cell Disease as a Ghanaian Adolescent"**

Sickle cell disease (SCD) is a chronic illness that affects approximately 1 in 5,000 African Americans in the U.S. About two percent of Ghanaians suffer from the disease. Complications stemming from SCD not only have significant long term physical implications, but are also associated with a number of psychosocial problems. In adolescents with SCD, it has been shown that an increase in the number of crises correlates with an increase in school absences, difficulty in social adjustment, and an increase in symptoms of depression and anxiety. However, many of these psychosocial symptoms have been shown to be well managed through various coping mechanisms such as cognitive behavioral therapy and familial and peer support. Deidra's goal with the Medical Humanities Summer Fellowship is to understand how the physical complications associated with SCD affect the psychosocial environments of adolescents in Accra, Ghana. In addition, she will evaluate what coping mechanisms Ghanaian children employ in managing the psychosocial complications they may be experiencing.



Deidra Ansah



Holly Bullock

**"Kukhuluma na Tinyanga: the Swaziland Traditional Healers Study"**

Holly will be consulting with a small cohort of Swazi traditional healers to describe the knowledge that they want visiting western doctors to have regarding Swazi traditional health beliefs and the role of traditional healers in the culture. Her goal is to produce a descriptive paper of her findings, which can later be adapted into an informative pamphlet to be issued with orientation materials to future visiting physicians, residents, and medical students at the Baylor-Bristol-Meyers-Squib Children's Center of Excellence. Sharing of information in such a way will help the visiting physicians better understand patients' health seeking experiences prior to presentation and allow them to establish greater rapport and communication.

*We plan to share the results of  
each Fellow's project this coming Fall 2009.*