

# The AAFP Center for International Health Initiatives



**AAFP**  
Center for  
International  
Health Initiatives

## About the AAFP Center for International Health Initiatives

The AAFP Center for International Health Initiatives (CIHI) was created in 2000 in response to increased interest in the global development of family medicine. As several countries and institutions requested high-quality consultations, the AAFP and its members involved in international consultations recognized the need for a process to respond to these requests. The advisory board they created included nine experienced family medicine international consultants.

CIHI's vision is "to assist in the development of deliberately trained, competent, generalist physicians to meet the health needs of the community and country." The underlying philosophy of this vision is that trained international consultants will provide assistance based on the universal principles of family medicine, tailored to the epidemiology and economy of the country, and using the best practices of family medicine in the U.S. that are appropriate for the needs of the community.

## CIHI Milestones

### *Consultation Resource Development*

In 2000, Warren Heffron, MD, a member of the CIHI Advisory Board, was the AAFP's first international senior scholar-in-residence. During this time, he developed consultation tools which he piloted during consultations in Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, and Saudi Arabia. In addition, he worked with other CIHI consultants to develop comprehensive materials on the consultation process, curriculum development, and consultant selection and training.

### *AAFP International Family Medicine Workshop*

The 2003 inaugural CIHI workshop brought together academic and practicing family physicians to enhance the training of family physicians involved in international family medicine or considering international activities. Participants were trained in consultation skills, public health principles, representing family medicine to key stakeholders, and retraining versus traditional post-secondary training models. Future meeting dates are posted at [www.aafp.org/international](http://www.aafp.org/international).

### *ProShëndetit Project: Improving Primary Health Care in Albania*

In 2003, the AAFP received a three-year subcontract to provide technical assistance for a United States Agency for International Development (USAID) project in Albania in cooperation with University Research Corporation, LLC (URC) and Bearing Point. CIHI consultants have travelled to Albania numerous times to work with the Albanian Ministry of Health on issues related to primary health care development, educational training models, and certification/accreditation systems. The project is currently in its second phase.

## New Opportunities

AAFP Center for International Health Initiatives staff is actively pursuing hosting additional international workshops, and has been approached for assistance with additional health care development projects in Iraq, Jordan, Lesotho, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Armenia, and India. CIHI consultants have also conducted consultation assessments of post-graduate training programs in Macao and the Bahamas.

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