

Cancer Epidemiology Education  
in Special Populations  
(CEESP)

A New Master's Program at the University of  
Michigan School of Public Health

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# Presentation Outline

- 1) Overview of U. Michigan NCI-R25E
- Types of students and student preparation
- UM curriculum and field research experience
- Flexibility of the model components
- Establishing field site mentors
- Cultural sensitivity in field site locations
  
- 2) Plans for dissemination to other institutions

# Program's Objective

- Develop an educational program to prepare 50 masters' students in public health in the field of cancer epidemiology in special populations (international and minority settings) over 5 years.

# MPH Student Preparation

## Example Profiles of UM Students

- 2-year program (60 credit hours)
- 1-year program for M.Ds (42 credit hours)
- Background in Biology, social sciences, and Medicine
- Epidemiology, Environmental Health, Health Behavior/Health Education

# Typical Student Program

- **First Year**
  - Fall: Mini proposals and choose mentors (Sept-Nov)
  - Spring: Revise proposals, contractual agreements, take new and core courses
- **Summer Research Field Experience**
- **Second year**
  - Fall: Present preliminary field results, take new and core course, and analyze data
  - Spring: Finalize data analysis, take new and core course, and present and discuss final reports

# Placement Sites

- **International:** Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, South Africa, India, and Mexico
- **Domestic:** SEER, Arab Americans, Native Americans, African Americans, Multiethnic in California and Hispanics in Houston

# Types of Research Projects

- Molecular epidemiology of inflammatory breast and pancreatic cancers
- Clustering of cancer and environmental pollution
- Cancer incidence, pesticides, and breast cancer
- Molecular predictors of breast cancer survival
- Cancer in Native Americans in Michigan
- Barriers to cervical & breast cancer screening

# New Required Courses

- Cancer Epidemiology (3 credits)
- Cancer Epi in Special Populations (1 credit)
- Cancer Control and Prevention seminar I (1 credit)
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- Cancer Control and Prevention seminar II (1 credit)



# Important Points for the Success of International and Minority Site Field Training

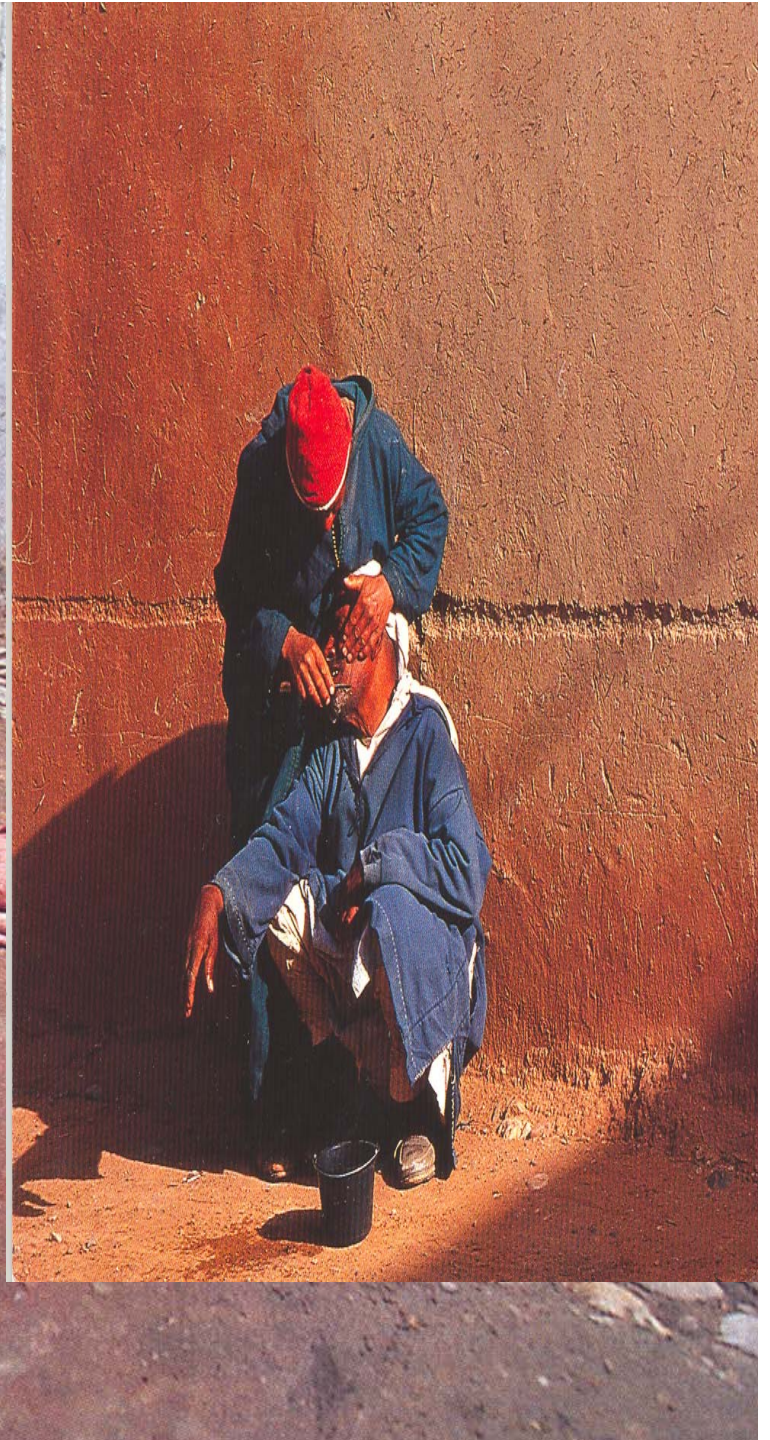
- Existing research infrastructure is essential
- Ongoing projects to be utilized by students
- IRB approvals and ethical considerations
- Language preparation maximizes success
- Mentoring team and on-site mentorship by local faculty and U of M mentors

## Issues Related to Research & Cultural Sensitivity in Field Sites

- Coursework preparation (622 and 664)
  - Infrastructure, Interviewing, behavioral and cultural differences, biological specimens, permits, study design, environmental and genetic factors, and other U.S.-funded studies
- Evaluation & feedback of previous years
- Meetings with future off-site mentors
- Field mentorship











## **Plans for Disseminating the Program to Other U.S. Institutions**

- **Field placements at field sites of other Universities (UCLA, GW, Texas, and Emory)**
- **Students from other U.S. Universities (Texas)**
- **Distant Education (courses and field experience)**
- **Dissemination grant with other institutions**







