

General Pediatrician Volunteer “Job Description”

As a general pediatrician volunteer, you can work in whichever department you feel most comfortable -- most general pediatrician volunteers tend to be primary care doctors and thus end up spending most of their time in the OPD. Initially in the OPD, you can sit with a junior doctor (i.e. Cambodian pediatric resident) and precept them. Offering suggestions for better history-taking, note-writing, use of lab tests, consultation on diagnostic dilemmas and encouraging use of textbook/on-line resources can be useful, keeping in mind that there is less time to see each patient than in the West (300-400 patients/day divided by 5-7 docs). By precepting the junior docs, you can also learn what kinds of patients are seen in OPD and how they are treated. Once you feel comfortable, you may be asked to see patients on your own with an interpreter (usually one of the OPD nurses).

If you are a hospitalist or are more comfortable in the inpatient setting, you can work with the IPD team to see patients and write notes. Of course, you can also split your time between OPD and IPD.

At 2:00pm, teaching rounds begin in the ICU at which time the inpatient team rounds one-by-one on all in-house patients (ICU, ER, IPD, LAU). Volunteer pediatricians are welcome to join these teaching rounds both as observers and also to offer suggestions on patient care. During some months when there are many volunteers at AHC, we may limit the number of volunteers allowed on teaching rounds. But while all volunteers may not be able to attend rounds every day, they will all get the opportunity to attend some of the daily rounds.

Most pediatrician volunteers are also asked to give some of the junior doctor lectures which take place daily from 4:00pm to 5:00pm. This will usually be arranged prior to your visit, either by Dr. Leakhena or Dr. Varun. If you're not giving the 4pm lecture, it would be helpful if you covered the OPD or the IPD from 4:00-5:00pm so that the junior doctors may attend this mandatory part of their medical education curriculum.

Finally, most volunteers will have the opportunity to go on a Home Care visit, where they will accompany a Home Care nurse to a patient's home. Most of the Home Care patients are children with chronic diseases, the most common being HIV, malnutrition, and neurologic disability. Mr. Sopheary, the volunteer coordinator, can help in arranging a Home Care visit.

Please contact Dr. Varun Kumar if there are any problems during your rotation.