

Dermatology Days with the Mercy Delta Express Project

Mississippi Dermatological Society
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Mission: Provide free dermatologic care for the underinsured and underserved people of the Mississippi Delta, one of the poorest areas in the nation.

Abstract

UMMC's Department of Dermatology will collaborate with the Mercy Delta Express Project (MDEP), which provides mobile school-based health care to the approximately 1,100 children in the South Delta School District. Once a month, volunteers from UMMC Dermatology, including physicians, residents and medical students, will travel to MDEP's locations in the Delta and provide full service medical, pediatric, and surgical dermatology services.

Goals and Objectives

Goal 1.

To provide volunteer dermatology care to an indigent population that currently has no access to dermatology services. (No dermatologists within 45 miles).

Objective 1.

-Provide dermatology care to 180 people in Sharkey and Issaquena Counties, Mississippi

Goal 2.

Teach residents and medical students in a rural area stressing the value of providing service to their community

Objective 2 - To recruit a dermatologist to live and work in this area

Project Design, Methods and Evaluation

Timeline

The grant funds would support UMMC's Department of Dermatology in providing dermatologic care with the Mercy Delta Express Project for one year. We hope that once the clinic is established we will find other funding sources to keep the project going in perpetuity with volunteer providers.

Project design

Mississippi's population is the sickest and most obese in the nation, while also having the second-highest rate of diabetes, lowest education level and shortest life expectancy. A quarter of the nearly three million residents live at or below the poverty line, and about 17 percent of residents lack health insurance, as Mississippi does not participate in the Affordable Care Act. The state also has the least per capita dermatologists of any state, with only 48 physicians for the above-mentioned three million citizens, and 20 of these dermatologists are over the age of 65. The economic impact of untreated and under-treated skin disease in a Southern state with skin disease potentiated by heat and UV light is very great and can be measured in increased mortality from melanoma, lost work and decreased productivity rooted in poor quality life because of itching, cutaneous infections and cutaneous malignancies.

To tackle these issues, UMMC's Department of Dermatology will collaborate with the Mercy Delta Express Project (MDEP), which provides mobile school-based health care to the approximately 1,100 children in the South Delta School District. The two counties comprising the school district have no pediatricians, and no dermatologists within 50 miles. Once a month, volunteers from UMMC Dermatology, including physicians, residents and medical students, will travel to MDEP's locations in the Delta and provide full service medical, pediatric, and surgical dermatology services.

Participants

Mississippi Dermatological Society

University of Mississippi Medical Center

- Department of Dermatology
 - o Robert Brodell, MD, chair
- School of Nursing
 - o Lisa Haynie, PhD, professor

Delivered Product

Full service medical, pediatric, and surgical dermatology services will be provided with the exception of Patch Testing, Mohs surgery and cosmetic services to residents in the Mississippi Delta.

- Outcome measures:
1. Number of patients from the Delta served with dermatology services
 2. Tabulation of diagnoses of patients served
 3. Tabulation of the value of free services provided
 4. Recruitment of a dermatologist to work in the Delta full time.

Project Timeline/Budget Timeline

January 2016

- Start purchasing supplies
- Start scheduling volunteer physicians

May 2016

- Finalize travel plans and physician schedules

June 2016

- Transport supplies to Mercy Delta Express Project locations
- Set up dermatology areas in MDEP clinics

July 11, 2016

- First Dermatology Day with the MDEP

August 8, 2016

- Dermatology Day with the MDEP

September 12, 2016

- Dermatology Day with the MDEP

October 10, 2016

- Dermatology Day with the MDEP

November 14, 2016

- Dermatology Day with the MDEP

December 12, 2016

- Dermatology Day with the MDEP
- First six-month outcome measures evaluation

January 9, 2017

- Dermatology Day with the MDEP

February 13, 2017

- Dermatology Day with the MDEP

March 13, 2017

- Dermatology Day with the MDEP

April 10, 2017

- Dermatology Day with the MDEP

May 8, 2017

- Dermatology Day with the MDEP

June 12, 2017

- Dermatology Day with the MDEP
- Second six-month outcome measures evaluation