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**Acupuncture Trainer Position**

**Project Background**

The Global Acupuncture Project (GAP)/PanAfrican Acupuncture Project (PAAP) is designed to train local community–health providers so they can provide acupuncture treatments to reduce symptoms, increase the quality of life, and engender a sense of hope in those living with HIV infection, malaria, TB, dengue, or other chronic conditions. The Acupuncture Trainees are taught specific acupuncture protocols to address the signs and symptoms associated with these and other conditions, including the stress experienced by health-care providers and the family members of those with these debilitating illnesses.

Trainings consist of an initial intensive week-long session, followed by two one-week enrichment sessions. At the core of the trainings is a Training Manual, helping the Trainee move from intake and diagnosis, to point choice and location, and to treatment. Between training sessions, the Trainees use the Training Manual to guide them as they provide acupuncture at their places of work. In addition, they provide acupuncture treatments to address the stress experienced by other health-care providers and family members. Trainees maintain records on all treatments and maintain close contact with the resident local coordinator, who provides a means of access for trainees to ask questions and receive feedback from U.S. acupuncturists via the internet, fax, sms/text, and telephone.

**Trainer Responsibilities**

Volunteers must readily embrace the philosophy of the use of simple acupuncture protocols as a viable form of medical care in specific environments and during limited circumstances (e.g., emergency medicine) to provide relief for various symptoms and conditions, and to act as a gateway to other forms of healthcare. Thus, the role of the Trainer is to teach and supervise treatments as provided by the Trainees. (And therefore, except when demonstrations are necessary, the volunteer Trainers will rarely be providing treatments themselves.)

Trainers work as a team, problem solving as a group when questions and/or issues arise. However, the Project Coordinator/Lead Trainer has the role of making decisions when the group is not able to come to consensus or if the issue involves one or more of the Trainers.

The volunteer must obtain all required travel documentation, such as passport and visa, and receive immunizations, as determined by the laws and requirements of the specific country.

**Trainer Qualifications/Criteria**

Trainees will bring the following personal and professional resources to this position:

• Must be a Licensed Acupuncturist or equivalent qualification in home country; or a student intern enrolled in an accredited acupuncture program

• Flexibility and creativity

• Cultural sensitivity and openness

• Effective communication skills

• Effective organization skills

• Understanding of and sensitivity to the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS or other chronic illness.

• Ability to learn quickly

• Compassion

• Collegiality and ability to work supportively and sensitively in a group

**Additional helpful qualifications:**

• Teaching experience

• Experience working with people who are HIV+ or have another chronic illness

• Prior travel abroad, particularly to underdeveloped countries

• Experience working in the Public Health arena

**Costs**

In addition to plane fare to the country in which the training is held, applicants are required to pay a program fee. The actual amount of the program fee depends on the specific training as well as the number of Trainers participating. However, the fee will not be greater than $1500 (one week in Uganda), $3000 (two weeks in Uganda), or $500 (one week in Mexico), which covers in-country living and travel expenses. Please contact the home office for specifics related to the training in which you are interested. Participation in trainings or activities before or following the training in the host country may incur additional costs.

GAP will provide fundraising materials and make suggestions for ensuring that the fundraising is successful. Funds may be obtained through personal resources and/or fund raising.

Upon arrival in the country of the training, all project-related costs, such as transportation, lodging, lunch, and teas, will be covered by the project. (All costs associated with the Trainer arriving early or staying after the trainings will be the responsibility of the Trainer.)

Not covered are personal costs, such as personal communications, photography equipment, batteries, personal care items, and souvenirs, or the cost of any health care if the Trainer should require medical intervention.

It is the responsibility of the Trainer to obtain and pay for passport, visa, and any required immunizations and health insurance.

**Procedures**

Apply online at <http://globalacupuncture.org/involvement.html>. Additional application materials can be sent to GAP by post, FAX (1-617-277-7444) or email ([info@globalacupuncture.org](mailto:info@globalacupuncture.org)). (The three letters of reference can be forwarded using these same methods.)

If accepted, the volunteer will discuss with the Home Office the placement dates and locations, and fundraising materials and travel information will be sent to the volunteer.