University of Florida
Global Health Equity Track (GHET) Project Proposal

**Mentor:** David Wood, MD, MPH

**Ecuador Mentor:** Fernando Ortega, MD, PhD

**Project title:** Evaluation of the impact of running water in Tingo Pucara, Chimborazo Province, Ecuador

**Specific Aims:** Describe briefly your goals/ objectives for the project. Until recently Tingo Pucara, a small village high in the Andes in Ecuador had no clean water source. Engineers without boards recently designed, and with the work of the community, installed a large well with tubing to bring water to each house. Because they lacked water for personal hygiene tooth brushing, hand washing, bathing was not common. With access to sufficient water for these activities the community has the opportunity to adopt new personal hygiene habits. The focus of this project is to assess the beliefs and practices related to personal hygiene by community residents, use culturally effective methods to teach personal hygiene, assess the uptake of hand washing and tooth brushing and assess impact of these practices of health and wellbeing.

**Background and Significance:** Describe here the rationale for the project (why it important). Hand washing and tooth brushing have been documented to improve oral and physical health by reducing caries, reducing the incidence of respiratory and diarrheal diseases and improve and child nutrition.

**Preliminary Work in the Area:** Describe here any past work you or others have performed in this area. Dr. Fernando Ortega has worked with the Tingo Pucara community for 10 years in health and education issues. He helped coordinate the clean water project. He is well known and trusted by the community.

**Project Design and Methods:** For a research project describe the design, setting/participants, and specific procedures. For a service project explain your plan for its development and implementation.

1. Assess current personal hygiene practices in the community.
2. Develop culturally relevant education materials/activities and develop a method to promote the educational materials/activities.
3. Deliver the educational materials/activities.

**Project Evaluation:** Describe how you will assess the impact of the proposed project. We will document the knowledge, attitudes and behaviors of the community before and after the educational intervention. We will also document the incidence of diarrheal diseases 3 months prior to and 3 months after the implementation of the educational intervention.

**Project Timeline:** Describe the timeline for your project development, implementation, and assessment.

March-June 2013: develop survey, develop educational materials, and write educational drama
June-August 2013: travel to Ecuador; conduct baseline assessment; present educational materials; present dramas; train local resident to continue with educational presentations
June-August 2013: evaluate impact of intervention

**Human Subjects Protections:** Is IRB approval required? If so, please describe the process for IRB approval. We will obtain IRB approval from both UF and USFQ.