

# *Global Seminar for Environment and Sustainability*

The Global Seminar for Environment and Sustainability initiated in 1998 at Cornell University now has a network of over 50 academic institutions worldwide. Institutions working in clusters of 5-7 hold a semester-long seminar focused on a theme such as biosecurity, food systems, horticulture, or a new topic, "Health and the Environment," which serves as an illustration.

The Global Seminar for "Health and the Environment," initiated in 2007-2008, follows the original Global Seminar model. It is an interactive videoconference-based course for students from selected medical institutions to discuss four real-life case studies related to health and the environment that affect public health worldwide. Participants include medical schools where VCOM has an outreach clinic: the Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Honduras.

Case studies in the "health theme" concentrate on the medical issues associated with rising population in a rural village in Africa; nutritional deficits in India; pharmaceutical development from plants in the Central American rainforest, and Mad Cow Disease in Denmark. Cases and curriculum accessed in a virtual library at Cornell University focus on specific and localized situations to support a controlled, in-depth discussion of the environmental and health-related ramifications. They serve as a springboard for a broader discussion of worldwide trends and impact. A Global Forum complements the seminar through a distinguished lecture series on related world-wide topics.



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Participants in the Global Seminar for Health and the Environment included students from four medical schools.

*Clockwise, from left: VCOM, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, and El Salvador.*

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